

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 1, 2024—9:30 AM

First 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

Advent is about the “coming days.” God’s people have always lived in great expectation, but that expectation finds specific, repeated enunciation in the texts appointed for these four weeks. The ancients anticipated a “righteous Branch to spring up for David.” The Thessalonians awaited “the coming of our Lord Jesus with all the saints.” Jesus’ contemporaries hoped for the time “to stand before the Son of Man.” With them we eagerly await the coming days: another Christmas celebration, a second coming, and the advent of Christ in word and supper.

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 God says,

C **“Do not be afraid.”**

P God says,

C **“I have called you by name.”**

P God says,

C **“I will be with you.”**

P God says,
 C **“You are precious and honored in my sight.”**
 P At the beginning of this season,
 C **at the start of this week,**
 P at the top of this hour,
 C **may we wrap ourselves in these words. May we begin again.**
 P Let us worship our Holy God!

CANDLE LIGHTING LITURGY

P In a weary and worn world, how do we begin again? Where do we start?
 C **Let us begin with the good news! Let us begin by trusting that we are a blessing, loved by a gracious God. Let us begin with music and singing! Let us begin with warmth and welcome. Let us begin with hope.**
 P Yes, let us begin with hope. Today we light the candle of hope to shine a light in a worn and weary world.
 C **May this be our foundation. May this be our fresh start. May this be our new beginning.**
 P May hope flow forth from here. Amen!

HYMN

(verses 1 & 2)

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.



CALL TO CONFESSION

P In the Gospel of Luke, the angel Gabriel tells Mary two things: that she is highly favored, and that she is going to have a child. Mary's response to this news is simple. With awestruck authenticity, she asks, "How can this be?" Every time we approach the prayer of confession, I ask myself this same awestruck question, "How can this be?" How can God's mercy know no end? How can God be so gracious with someone as fickle as me? Regardless of the week we've had, this good news never changes. So join me in speaking the truth of our lives. Join me in the prayer of confession, and may God's mercy leave you awestruck. Let us pray:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

C **Affirming God, your first words to creation were words of love. You looked at this earth and said, "It is good."
You spoke affirmations through the prophets. You spoke blessings over Mary. You spoke belonging through Christ.
At every turn, you have reiterated that we are a blessing, made in your image, held in your love.
Forgive us for forgetting this truth.
Forgive us for measuring our worth by society's measuring stick instead of yours.
We believe. Help our unbelief. In Christ's name we pray, amen.**

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

P Family of faith, I don't know the last time someone told you that you are good, just as you are.
I don't know the last time you heard that you are loved and created in the image of God.
I don't know the last time you trusted those words and truly believed that you are a blessing. However, in case it has been a while, hear these words from Isaiah:
God says,
C **"Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine."**
P We are forgiven. We are loved. Let it leave you awestruck.
C **Thanks be to God! May we believe it. 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 #715

Christ, Be Our Light



1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for
2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for
3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for
4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for
5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone
wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,
warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.
shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.



Refrain
Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



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 Affirming God,

How often do you speak to us, and how often do we miss it?

How often do you whisper blessings over us that we refuse to hear? Open our hearts. Create space in us to not only hear these words, but to believe the good news tucked between them. We are hungry for your wisdom, so speak to us now.

With hope and curiosity, we listen. With hope and curiosity, we dare to begin again.

C **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 33:14-16

In the Old Testament, “righteousness” often has to do with being faithful in relationship. God acts righteously both in punishing Israel for its sin and in having mercy. In today’s reading, Jerusalem’s future name—“The Lord is our righteousness”—proclaims that God is even now working salvation for Israel.

¹⁴ The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵ In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶ In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: “The Lord is our righteousness.”

L The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: 25:1-10 (read responsively)

¹ To | you, O LORD,
I lift | up my soul.

² **My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

³ Let none who look to you be put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

⁴ **Show me your ways, O LORD,
and teach me your paths.**

⁵ Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

⁶ **Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love,
for they are from everlasting. R**

⁷ Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness,

O LORD.

⁸ **You are gracious and upright, O LORD;
therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

⁹ You lead the lowly in justice
and teach the lowly your way.

¹⁰ **All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast love and faithfulness
to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies.**

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Upon Timothy's report from the congregation at Thessalonica, Paul is exuberant with gratitude for them. In this passage from his letter, Paul voices overflowing thanks, joy, and blessings for the people of this growing church.

⁹ How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? ¹⁰ Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

¹¹ Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you.

¹² And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. ¹³ And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

L The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL: Luke 21:25-36**

God will fulfill God's purposes and, already, hidden signs of that fulfillment abound. On that great day there will be dismay, perplexity, confusion, and terror, but God's people shall be given strength to stand boldly and receive God's promised redemption.

P The holy gospel according to Luke

C Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ²⁵ “There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶ People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷ Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. ²⁸ Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

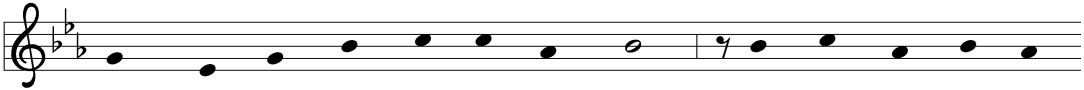
²⁹ Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰ as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³² Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³⁴ “Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵ like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶ Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

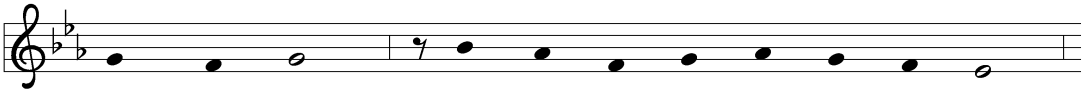
P The gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

Creator of the Stars of Night



1 Cre - a - tor of the stars of night, your peo - ple's ev - er -
 2 When this old world drew on toward night, you came; but not in
 3 At your great name, O Je - sus, now all knees must bend, all
 4 Come in your ho - ly might, we pray, re - deem us for e -
 5 To God the Fa - ther, God the Son, and God the Spir - it,



last - ing light, O Christ, re - deem - er of us all,
 splen - dor bright, not as a mon - arch, but the child
 hearts must bow: all things on earth with one ac - cord,
 ter - nal day; de - fend us while we dwell be - low
 Three in One, praise, hon - or, might, and glo - ry be



we pray you hear us when we call.
 of Mar - y, bless - ed moth - er mild.
 like those in heav'n, shall call you Lord.
 from all as - saults of our dread foe.
 from age to age e - ter - nal - ly. A - men.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

C We believe in a blessing God who calls us Beloved.

We believe that this blessing showed up in the life of Mary, and was also bestowed upon the hemorrhaging woman, the poor in spirit, the children, the crowds, the Jews, the Gentiles, the faithful and the doubting. So in faith, we trust that God's blessing, like ripples on the water, forever reaches toward us. And with wild hope, we believe that because of this blessing, we are covered in love. We are more than enough. Thanks be to God! Amen.

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

P God of blessings,

Once again, we find ourselves standing at the beginning of the month, at the beginning of this Advent season, at the beginning of this new day, bringing our hearts to you.

Meet us here, gracious God.

Hear our prayers and offer your words of blessing. To start, we bring you prayers of deep gratitude.

First, we want to say thank you for the the people who, like the angel Gabriel, help us see you in our midst. Thank you for faith mentors, for friends that greet us with hugs and smiles at church, for the saints who have gone before us, for Sunday school teachers and youth advisors. Thank you for these saints and the ways they always point us toward you. Pour out your blessings on them.

Similarly, we give you thanks for the people who, like Mary, have shown us what it looks like to trust our belovedness. Thank you for the folks in our lives who have acted with fierce bravery, trusting their call and your words of blessing. Their faith and conviction inspires our own.

In addition to prayers of gratitude, we also offer prayers for guidance. For even though we count this day as a new beginning, the words and messages of the past cling to us like quicksand.

Blessing God, today we lift up those of us who have ever been told that we are unworthy or are not enough by this demanding society.

We pray for those of us who have ever been discouraged from chasing a dream or have been made to feel small.

We pray for those of us who know insecurity and dance with self-doubt.

We pray for all who hear your words of blessing and want to respond, “How can this be?”

Let this day be a new beginning, Creator God. Erase our memories of self-doubt. Erase the “How can this be?” questions from our minds. Erase our insecurities and fears, and in their place, fill our hearts with trust. Fill our spirits with conviction. Fill our minds with the knowledge that, like Mary, we are made in your image.

Like Mary, we are good.

God of blessings,

Once again, we find ourselves standing at the beginning of the month, at the beginning of this Advent season, at the beginning of this new day, bringing our hearts to you.

So on this new day, we pray: speak your words of blessing once again.

And as you do, we will lift our voices together to pray the words your son taught us to pray, 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

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

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 2

12:00 pm Food Pantry & Clothing Closet

Tuesday, December 3

6:30 pm Finance Meeting

Wednesday, December 4

1:00 pm Midweek Service
2:00 pm Bible Study
3:30 pm Outreach Meeting
6:00 pm Choir Practice
7:30 pm Evening Service

Thursday, December 5

7:30 pm Al-Anon Meeting

Friday, December 6

Pastor Darryl's Sabbath

Saturday, December 7

10:00 am Decorate the church for Christmas/lunch

Sunday, December 8

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 Joyce De Winter in memory of Howard & Ina De Winter.



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



On Saturday, December 7 at 10:00 am, we will be decorating the church for Christmas. Lunch will follow. Please plan on helping out if you can.

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!



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: 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.

