

# **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.**

## **Sunday, March 5, 2023—9:30 AM**

### **LENT 2 – How do we begin again?**

### **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**

*During Lent we journey with all those around the world who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. In today's gospel Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and Spirit. At the font we are given a new birth as children of God. As God made a covenant with Abraham, in baptism God promises to raise us up with Christ to new life. From worship we are sent forth to proclaim God's love for all the world.*

#### **WELCOME**

#### **CENTERING TIME**

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

#### **CENTERING MUSIC**

## CALL TO WORSHIP

L What is it like to begin again?

**C It is like flowers in the spring that push through frozen ground. It is like babies learning to walk, one clumsy step at a time. It is like Nicodemus in the night, asking Jesus for guidance. It is like a Sunday morning, starting our week anew.**

L May we find God in our seeking.

**C May we learn as we go.**

L May we be brave enough to begin again.

**C Let us worship the God of new beginnings.**

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P One of the things I love about the prayer of confession is it offers us a new beginning. In the prayer of confession, we lay our cards on the table. We speak honestly with God about who we are and who we long to be. And in response, God wraps us in grace and lets us begin again. So together, with God's grace, let us wipe the slate clean. Together, with God's grace, let us pray the prayer of confession:

**C God of new life, you call us into unknown places, and we bury our heads in the sand. You promise all the stars in the sky, and we doubt it can be true. You speak of new life in the Spirit, and we tell ourselves we've missed our chance. Over and over and over again, you invite us closer to you. Show us the way. Forgive our mistakes. Give us the courage to begin again with you. Amen.**

P Family of faith, hear and believe this good news: There is a grace to God's love that is bigger than we can imagine. No matter what we did or didn't do yesterday, we have been forgiven. Today, the slate is wiped clean. Today, we are made new. Join me in saying:

**C We belong to God. We are held in God's love. We are made new. Amen.**

## PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C And also with you.**

## SHARING OF PEACE

In the Cross of Christ I Glory



1 In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, tow'r - ing  
 2 When the woes of life o'er - take me, hopes de -  
 3 When the sun of bliss is beam - ing light and  
 4 Bane and bless - ing, pain and plea - sure, by the



o'er the wrecks of time. All the light of  
 ceive, and fears an - noy, nev - er shall the  
 love up - on my way, from the cross the  
 cross are sanc - ti - fied; peace is there that



sa - cred sto - ry gath - ers round its head sub - lime.  
 cross for - sake me; lo, it glows with peace and joy.  
 ra - diance stream - ing adds more lus - ter to the day.  
 knows no mea - sure, joys that through all time a - bide.

**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 OF THE DAY

P Holy God,

C **We come to you today with our biggest questions: Who are we called to be? What do you need from us? Where are you in our midst? How can we follow you more clearly? As we read your Word today, we ask that you would weave answers into the text. Speak to us through these ancient stories that we might find what we are seeking in you. With gratitude and open hearts we pray, amen.**

## FIRST READING: Genesis 12:1-4a

*God's call of Abram and Sarai has a clear purpose—that through them all the families of the earth would gain a blessing. As they set out on their journey, they are accompanied by promises of land, nation, and a great reputation.*

<sup>1</sup>The Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup>I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup>I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

<sup>4a</sup>So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him.

L The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM: Psalm 121 (read responsively)

<sup>1</sup>I lift up my eyes | to the hills;

from where is my | help to come?

<sup>2</sup>**My help comes | from the LORD,  
the maker of heav- | en and earth.**

<sup>3</sup>The LORD will not let your | foot be moved  
nor will the one who watches over you | fall asleep.

<sup>4</sup>**Behold, the keep- | er of Israel  
will neither slum- | ber nor sleep;**

<sup>5</sup>the LORD watches | over you;  
the LORD is your shade at | your right hand;

<sup>6</sup>**the sun will not strike | you by day,  
nor the | moon by night.**

<sup>7</sup>The LORD will preserve you | from all evil  
and will | keep your life.

<sup>8</sup>**The LORD will watch over your going out and your | coming in,  
from this time forth for- | evermore.**

## SECOND READING: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

*In the person and example of Abraham we discover that a right relationship with God does not involve earning a reward from God but entails trusting God's promises. Abraham is the forebear and model for both Jews and Gentiles, because we too trust that ours is a God who gives life to the dead.*

<sup>1</sup>What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? <sup>2</sup>For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. <sup>3</sup>For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." <sup>4</sup>Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. <sup>5</sup>But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

<sup>13</sup>For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. <sup>14</sup>If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. <sup>15</sup>For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

<sup>16</sup>For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, <sup>17</sup>as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations")—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

P The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.

Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.

Save us as you prom-ised; we will trust your word.

Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.

## **GOSPEL: John 3:1-17**

*A curious Pharisee visits Jesus by night to learn from the teacher his friends reject. Jesus speaks to him about life in the Spirit and the kingdom of God.*

**P** The holy gospel according to John

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

<sup>1</sup>Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. <sup>2</sup>He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.” <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” <sup>4</sup>Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” <sup>5</sup>Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. <sup>6</sup>What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup>Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ <sup>8</sup>The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” <sup>9</sup>Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” <sup>10</sup>Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

<sup>11</sup>“Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. <sup>12</sup>If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? <sup>13</sup>No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup>And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup>that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

<sup>16</sup>“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

<sup>17</sup>“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

**P** The gospel of the Lord.

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

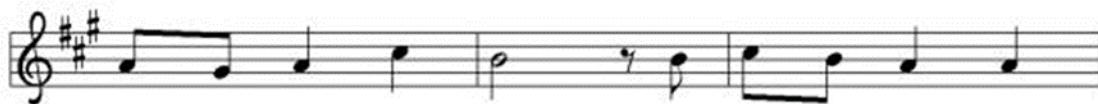
**SERMON**

**Pastor Darryl Thompson Powell**

## We Walk by Faith



1 We walk by faith and not by sight; with  
 2 We may not touch your hands and side, nor  
 3 Help then, O Lord, our un - be - lief; and  
 4 For you, O res - ur - rec - ted Lord, are  
 5 And when our life of faith is done, in



gra - cious words draw near, O Christ, who spoke as  
 fol - low where you trod; but in your prom - ise  
 may our faith a - bound to call on you when  
 found in means di - vine: be - neath the wa - ter  
 realms of clear - er light may we be - hold you



none e'er spoke: "My peace be with you here."  
 we re - joice, and cry, "My Lord and God!"  
 you are near and seek where you are found:  
 and the word, be - neath the bread and wine.  
 as you are, with full and end - less sight.

### AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**C** We believe in a God who meets us in the shadows, who welcomes our questions, who invites us to begin again. We believe that Jesus showed us a new way, a deeper faith, a more compassionate existence. We believe that all of our beginnings should return us to this foundation, and that no matter how many times we lose our way, God always welcomes us home. Amen.

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**—Sustained by God’s abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

*A brief silence. Each petition ends:*

**P** Merciful God,

**C** **receive our prayer.**

**P** We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

**C** **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.

### **OFFERING PRAYER**

**P** Let us pray.

**C** **Holy God, gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen**

## Just As I Am, without One Plea

1 Just as I am, with - out one plea, but that thy blood was  
 2 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout with man - y a con - flict,  
 3 Just as I am, thou wilt re - ceive, wilt wel - come, par - don,  
 4 Just as I am; thy love un - known has bro - ken ev - 'ry

shed for me, and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,  
 man - y a doubt, fight - ings and fears with - in, with - out,  
 cleanse, re - lieve; be - cause thy prom - ise I be - lieve,  
 bar - rier down; now to be thine, yea, thine a - lone,

O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

## 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, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -  
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -  
est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## 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.*

## 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, Lamb of God.

## 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 Let us pray.

C **Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## BLESSING

P As you leave this place, may God bless you with seeking. Seek out the hungry. Seek the weary. Seek the good in every person you pass. Seek out the hopeful. Seek the faithful. Seek God in each of us. As you seek and as you wonder, may you find what you are looking for. In the name of our loving God, who is always seeking us, go now in peace.

C Amen.

## SENDING MUSIC

## DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Christ is with you.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Pastor: Darryl Thompson Powell  
Director of Music: Henrietta Atkin  
Oboist: Wayne Ryerson

*Some of the prayers used today are by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.*

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## **TODAY'S SCHEDULE**

9:30 am     Worship, Holy Communion

## **THIS WEEK AT RESURRECTION**

### **Monday, March 6**

12:00 pm    Food Pantry & Clothing Closet

### **Tuesday, March 7**

7:30 pm     Finance Meeting

### **Wednesday, March 8**

1:00 pm     Midweek Lenten Service

2:00 pm     Bible Study

7:00 pm     Evening Lenten Prayer Service

7:30 pm     Choir Rehearsal

### **Thursday, March 9**

7:30 pm     Al-Anon Meeting

### **Friday, March 10**

Pastor Darryl's Sabbath

### **Saturday, March 11**

### **Sunday, March 12**

9:30 am     Worship, Holy Communion

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 Sue and Pat Flanagan in honor of their granddaughter Bridget's birthday.



We are continuing “**peanut butter Sunday**” but all donations are very much appreciated. Thank you!

## **PRAYER REQUESTS**

**PRAY FOR MEMBERS:** June K and family, Wayne R, Barb Z, Dolores B, Janet G, Irwin K, Marvin K, and Donna T.

**FRIENDS AND FAMILY OF RLC MEMBERS:** Susan, RoiAnne and her daughter Cyndy, Billie O, Rocio, Marilyn V, Walter M, John M, Mike I, Sharon V, Gary V, Warren, Marina, Luisa, Nathan, Ruth, Cyndy W, John B, Feodore, Atour, Billy G, Joyce S, Judy K, Sue Koevenig's nephew Kevin, and niece Alison V, Terry, Stan and Darlene M, Sue Flanagan's son Robert, housekeeping staff at hospitals and nursing homes, the homeless, Karen Shumaker's brother Curtis, Lynn, Elaine R, Lamone C, Russ Sprenger's daughter Kimberly S, Linda B and Janet Grace's son-in-law Scott B.

**THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY:** Josiah Gross, Edward Scharlow, Mike Brimie, Robert Dilks, and Mike Ignoffo.



