

Resurrection Lutheran Church

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Serving Our Neighbors by Sharing Our Blessings

Sunday, December 3, 2023—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

Stir up your power, and come! The psalmist's plea in Psalm 80:2 has become familiar to us in the Advent prayers. Isaiah wants God to rip the heavens open. Both cry out for an apparently distant, angry God to show up, to save, to restore. When we hear Jesus describing the coming of the Son of Man with stars falling from heaven, it can sound dire and horrible, not like anything we would ever hope for. But when we really look at the suffering of people God loves, we can share the hope that God would tear open the heavens and come.

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 God's house, we can be joyful.

C **We can be grateful. We can be hopeful.**

P In God's house, we can be weary.

C **We can be anxious. We can be grieving.**

P In God's house, we can be honest—

C **inspired or tired, delighted or doubtful, connected or curious,
and everything in between.**

P This is God's house. You are welcome exactly as you are.

C Let us worship our loving God.

CANDLE LIGHTING LITURGY

P How does a weary world hope?

C **By telling stories of hope, by lighting candles in the night, and planting seeds in the winter that will bloom in the spring.**

P By praying for children as they grow, and picking up trash on the sidewalk.

C **By insisting that small acts can make a difference.**

P There are a million ways to practice hope. So today we light the candle of hope as a reminder and a charge.

C **With God's help, may we bring hope into a weary world. 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.



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

CALL TO CONFESSION

P Friends, in today's scripture passage, a man named Zechariah is given good news from God and his response is to ask, "How can this be?" Have any of you ever felt that way when receiving good news? It can be hard to receive good news when we don't expect it. It can be hard to accept God's grace and God's love when we think we don't deserve it. But friends, scripture tells us over and over again of a loving, generous, and gracious God. So may we come to the prayer of confession today, not with fear, but with an awe so deep that we ask ourselves, "How can this be?" Let us pray:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

P Gracious God, we are weary. For weary bodies that ache and cry out, we pray:

C Forgive us for pushing ourselves too hard. Reminds us that we deserve Sabbath rest.

P For weary minds that feel overwhelmed and saturated with news, we pray:

C Forgive us for creating so many distractions. Remind us that in the quiet, we can hear you.

P For weary hearts that long to feel the joy of this season, we pray:

C Forgive us for being impatient with ourselves. Remind us that healing takes time, and that joy and grief can coexist.

P For the weary edges of our faith that struggle to hold onto hope,

C Forgive us. Remind us of Zechariah and Elizabeth. Remind us that your good news knows no bounds. Amen.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

P Family of faith, no matter how many times we wear ourselves thin, no matter how many times we lose ourselves to distractions, no matter how many times we ask ourselves, "*How can this be?*" God's love keeps showing up for us. So say this with me:

C We are loved. We are claimed. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Amen.

PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

SHARING OF PEACE

STRAIGHT FROM THE HEART

Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending



1 Lo! he comes with clouds de - scend - ing,
 2 Now re - demp - tion, long - ex - pect - ed,
 3 Yea, a - men, let all a - dore thee,



once comes for our sal - va - tion slain;
 high in sol - emn splen - dor near;
 on thine e - ter - nal throne;



thou - sand thou - sand saints at - tend - ing
 all the saints world re - ject - ed
 Sav - ior, take the pow'r and glo - ry,



join to sing the glad re - frain:
 thrill the trum - pet sound to hear:
 claim the king - dom as thine own.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -



lu - ia! Christ the Lord re - turns to reign.
 lu - ia! See the day of of - God ap - pear!
 lu - ia! Thou shalt reign, and thou a - lone!

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 Loving God, the source of our joy, as we turn our hearts toward your Word, we ask that you would soften us. Soften the callouses on our hearts. Weave yourself in between the cracks in our spirits. And plant hope where there is room. And as you do this, like flowers toward the sun, we will turn ourselves toward you, eager to hear a Word so good that we cannot help but ask ourselves, “How can this be?” With openness and gratitude we pray.

C **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Isaiah 64:1-9

This lament comes from a people who have had their hopes shattered. The visions of a rebuilt Jerusalem and a renewed people of God, spoken of in Isaiah 40–55, have not been realized. Instead, the people experience ruin, conflict, and famine. This lament calls God to account—to be the God who has brought deliverance in the past.

¹O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
²as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
³When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
⁴From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.
⁵You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
⁶We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

⁷There is no one who calls on your name,
or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.

⁸Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.

⁹Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

L The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 (read responsively)

¹Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph | like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned up- | on the cherubim.

²**In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, | and Manasseh,
stir up your strength and | come to help us.**

³Restore | us, O God;
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.

⁴**O LORD | God of hosts,
how long will your anger fume when your | people pray?**

⁵You have fed them with the | bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of | tears to drink.

⁶**You have made us the derision | of our neighbors,
and our enemies laugh | us to scorn.**

⁷Restore us, O | God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.

¹⁷**Let your hand be upon the one at | your right hand,
the one you have made so strong | for yourself. R**

¹⁸And so will we never turn a- | way from you;
give us life, that we may call up- | on your name.

¹⁹**Restore us, O LORD | God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.**

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

As the Christians in Corinth await the advent of Jesus, Paul reminds them how the Lord has already enriched them through spiritual gifts and will continue to strengthen them until the coming day of the Lord.

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—⁶just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—⁷so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

L The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL: Mark 13:24-37

Jesus encourages his followers to look forward to the day when he returns in power and glory to end all suffering.

P The holy gospel according to Mark

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

[Jesus said:] ²⁴“In those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
²⁵and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

²⁶Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. ²⁷Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

²⁸“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³²“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. ³⁵Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, ³⁶or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

P The gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Darryl Thompson Powell

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW #252

Each Winter As the Year Grows Older



1 Each win - ter as the year grows old - er, we each grow old - er,
 2 When race and class cry out for trea - son, when si - rens call for
 3 Yet I be - lieve be - yond be - liev - ing that life can spring from
 4 So e - ven as the sun is turn - ing to jour - ney to the
 5 O Child of ec - sta - sy and sor - rows, O Prince of peace and



too. The chill sets in a lit - tle cold - er; the
 war, they o - ver - shout the voice of rea - son and
 death, that growth can flow - er from our griev - ing, that
 north, the liv - ing flame, in se - cret burn - ing, can
 pain, bright - en to - day's world by to - mor - row's, re -



ver - i - ties we knew seem shak - en and un - true.
scream till we ig - nore all we held dear be - fore.
we can catch our breath and turn trans - fixed by faith.
kin - dle on the earth and bring God's love to birth.
new our lives a - gain; Lord Je - sus, come and reign!

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

C We believe in a God who hears our prayers,
who knows the shape and form of our weariness.
We believe in a God who wants joy and delight for us, not just survival and
existence.
We believe in a God who looks ahead, who is not done dreaming for the
world—a God who sends hope in the form of people and change, movements
and Spirit.
And so we return to this space.
We bring our joy and our weariness like two sides of the same coin,
and we trust that God is already at work.
Yes, we believe in a God who hears our prayers. Thanks be to God for a love
like that. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

P Gracious God,
You carry us through our days. You know every word on our tongue, every hair on
our head. You know the dreams in our hearts, and the weight of our bones. You
also know the weariness we bring with us into the morning and into this space. So
with honesty we come before you, both with hearts full of gratitude and with prayer
requests on our lips. First, holy God, we thank you for the gifts of this life that *give*
energy. For birthday candles and sunrises, for handwritten cards and jobs that we
are passionate about. For stories that can make us laugh until we cry, and for
friends that feel like family.

For all these gifts, thank you. In addition to these prayers of gratitude, loving God,
we also bring you the things that weigh heavy on our hearts. For gun violence, for
family and friends in chemotherapy, for seasons of transition and grief that won't
let us go—we ask for your attention. We ask for your love and care. Take this yoke
from us. Relieve some of the burden on our backs, and wrap your arms around

Places where we feel most tender. And as we enter into this new Advent season—a season marked with joy, hope and light—we ask that you would remind us that our full humanity is welcome here. There is room for both joy and grief. There is room for weariness and awe. There is room for faith and doubt, for nothing is too big or too far gone for your love to reach it. So with hope in our hearts, we unite our voices once more 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.

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, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are 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 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.

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 God for whom we wait, in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. 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 Family of faith, as you leave this place, you go into a weary world— so speak tenderly.

Do the good that is yours to do. Choose connection.

Hold onto hope.

And remember that Christ took on flesh for you. You are God's beloved.

So go rejoicing.

The world needs it.

C 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 Fellowship Hour/decorate the church

THIS WEEK AT RESURRECTION

Monday, December 4

12:00 pm Food Pantry & Clothing Closet

Tuesday, December 5

6:30 pm Finance Meeting

Wednesday, December 6

1:00 pm Midweek Service
2:00 pm Bible Study
4:30 pm Outreach Meeting
6:00 pm Choir Rehearsal
7:30 pm Evening Service

Thursday, December 7

7:30 pm Al-Anon Meeting

Friday, December 8

Pastor Darryl's Sabbath

Saturday, December 9

Sunday, December 10

9:30 am Worship, Holy Communion

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 Ronald.



The month of December will be asking for donations of **pasta**, but any and all donations are always very much appreciated!



The clothing closet is in need of the following items: men's causal shirts, jeans and shoes. Also, coats for men and women.



The Outreach Committee will again be donating \$250.00 to Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI) foster care and family Christmas program. This program provides gifts to a child who may otherwise go without. We are inviting members to join us as well.

If you are interested, donations can be put in the collection plate, mailed, or sent to us electronically if that is how you normally send in your offering. Checks should be made payable to Resurrection Lutheran Church. Please mark your donations "LSSI Christmas" in the memo area. Thank you!

Our Advent supplemental study series from A Sanctified Art is "How Does a Weary World Rejoice? An Advent Series in Luke's Gospel". It's a thoughtful and beautiful way to deepen your spiritual experience during this season. Donations are being gratefully accepted to pay for the use of these materials and printing as this cost is not in the church's budget. There is a donation jar on the small table by the entrance of the sanctuary for this collection as well as a signup sheet if you would like a copy of the booklet.



PRAY FOR MEMBERS: Janet C, Lindsay, Valentina, Virginia S, June K and family, Dolores B, Janet G, Irwin K, Marvin K, and Donna T.

FRIENDS AND FAMILY OF RLC MEMBERS: Leena, Jacque, Diane L, Marilyn R, Ed, Emily F, Lori, Michelle S, Ayla, Ryan & Samantha, Curtis, Allen, Pastor Tim, Nancy, Susan, Victor, Richard, Sarah, John M, Mike I, Sharon V, Gary V, Sophia, Marina, Luisa, Nathan, Cyndy W, John B, Feodore, Atour, Billy G, Joyce S, Judy K, Lynn, Stan and Darlene M, housekeeping staff at hospitals and nursing homes, the homeless, Elaine R, Lamone C, Linda B and Scott B.

THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY: Josiah G and Mike B.

If there is someone on the prayer list that no longer is in need of prayers, please call or email the office to let us know. Thank you.