



THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD
Christmas Eve Service
December 24, 2022 11:00 pm.

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.

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD Christmas Eve Service December 24, 2022, 11:00 pm.

All guests are welcome at the table of the Lord to receive communion if they have been baptized and believe Christ is present in the Sacrament. Please fill out a pew card and give to the usher when coming forward for communion.

We hope that you enjoy the pre-service music and spend this time reflecting and preparing your hearts and minds for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**10:30 p.m. Christmas Concert
Welcome this Christmas Eve. Please be seated and enjoy!**

PRELUDE *“The Holly and the Ivy”* arrangement by Robert Powell

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P As a kid I used to think the prayer of confession was scary. I thought it was a moment designed to make me feel guilty, intended for eyes cast down and shoulders hung low. But that’s not it at all. The prayer of confession is an invitation. It’s an opportunity to say, “This is who I’ve been, and this is who I long to be.” So let us pray together. Let us be truth tellers. Let us hold our heads high and speak honestly before God and one another. This is easy to do when we are surrounded by a God who delights in us. Friends, let us pray. Holy God,

C We admit—we don't fully understand the Christmas story. We are not familiar with angel choruses. We have not walked many miles to be counted in a census, and we don't always hear your voice in our dreams. We don't fully understand this story, so we admit, sometimes we hesitate to tell it. Instead of running out into the streets to shout that there is a love bigger than we could imagine, we whisper this good news. Instead of throwing open the doors and inviting people in, we simply leave them unlocked, hoping folks will figure it out. Instead of telling the next generation why this night matters so much, we stay quiet, afraid of creating pressure. Forgive us for our silence. Forgive us for our hesitation. Forgive us for the moments when we fail to share your good news. Plant this story of love so deep in our bones that we cannot help but share it from generation to generation. Amen.

P Friends, repeat after me: No matter where we go,

C No matter where we go,

P No matter what we say,

C No matter what we say,

P No matter what we do,

C No matter what we do,

P We belong to God.

C We belong to God.

P We are held.

C We are held.

P We are loved.

C We are loved.

P We are forgiven.

C We are forgiven. Amen!

OPENING HYMN

ELW #283

O Come, All Ye Faithful

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "O Come, All Ye Faithful". It features a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is written on a single staff. Below the staff, there are four lines of lyrics, each numbered 1 through 4. The lyrics are: 1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O; 2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal; 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion; 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;.

come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
 born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;
 sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!
 Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!

come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:
 Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
 Glo - ry to the God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:
 Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

Refrain
 Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,
 O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,

ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.
 O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

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.

CANDLELIGHTING LITURGY

P Over a hundred people, from the ages of two to eighty years old, were asked to fill in the blank for the statement: “My story is. . .” Hear some of their answers:

Reader 1: Amazing!

Reader 2: Just beginning.

Reader 3: A wee bit messy, with lots of love.

Reader 4: Privileged.

Reader 1: Hopeful.

Reader 2: Full of silliness.

Reader 3: Still unfolding.

Reader 4: Long, but good.

Reader 1: One of resilience.

Reader 2: Incomplete, thank goodness.

Reader 3: Multilingual.

Reader 4: A work in progress.

Reader 1: My story is not just mine, it’s tied to yours.

Reader 4: Tonight we tell the story that we tell every year—the story of Christ’s birth, the story of love made flesh. It’s a story that weaves through every generation. It’s a story that picks up the bits and pieces of our narrative and braids us together.

The center candle is lit.

Reader 4: So tonight we light the Christ candle, because from generation to generation, our story belongs to God. Thanks be to God for a love like that.

C: Amen.

PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

SHARING OF PEACE

SONG

“Truth Sent From Above” arrangement by Robert Powell

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P O Holy God,

C we need this story—this Christmas story. We need this story of ordinary people who were brave. We need this story of love that changed the world. We need this story of angel choruses that give reason to hope, and starlight that reminds us to look up. In a battered and bruised world, we gather around your Word like people gather around a fire to warm themselves. So we are here, gathered together to warm ourselves by your light, because we need this story. We need the truth that lies deep in these holy words. So today we pray: scoop out space in us to truly listen. Quiet our minds. Open our hearts. Kindle the fire. Amen.

P Hear the Word of the Lord from Isaiah 9:2-7:

FIRST READING: Isaiah 9:2-7

²The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.

³You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.

⁴For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.

He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

L The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: 96 (read responsively)

¹Sing to the LORD | a new song;
sing to the LORD, | all the earth.

²**Sing to the LORD, bless the name | of the LORD;
proclaim God's salvation from | day to day.**

³Declare God's glory a- | mong the nations
and God's wonders a- | mong all peoples.

⁴**For great is the LORD and greatly | to be praised,
more to be feared | than all gods.**

⁵As for all the gods of the nations, they | are but idols;
but you, O LORD, have | made the heavens.

⁶**Majesty and magnificence are | in your presence;
power and splendor are in your | sanctuary.**

⁷Ascribe to the LORD, you families | of the peoples,
ascribe to the LORD hon- | or and power.

⁸**Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the | holy name;
bring offerings and enter the courts | of the LORD.**

⁹Worship the LORD in the beau- | ty of holiness;
tremble before the LORD, | all the earth.

¹⁰**Tell it out among the nations: "The | LORD is king!
The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved will judge the
peoples with equity."**

¹¹Let the heavens rejoice, and let the | earth be glad;
let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that | is therein.

¹²**Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your com- | ing, O LORD,
for you come to | judge the earth.**

¹³You will judge the | world with righteousness
and the peoples | with your truth.

SECOND READING: Titus 2:11-14

¹¹The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹²training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

L The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



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

GOSPEL: Luke 2:1-14

P The holy gospel according to Luke.

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

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock

by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

P The gospel of the Lord.
C Praise to you, O Christ.

HYMN

(verses 1, 2)

ELW #289

Angels We Have Heard on High



1 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?
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



and the moun-tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.



Glo

ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo



ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

GOSPEL: Luke 2:15-20

P The holy gospel according to Luke.

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

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

P The gospel of the Lord.

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

Stand as you are able

HYMN

"Angels We Have Heard on High"
(verse 3 see page 9)

ELW #289

Please be seated

SERMON

Pastor Darryl Thompson Powell

HYMN

ELW #270

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king;
2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
3 Hail the heav'n - born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righ-teous-ness!

peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled."
late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.

Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;
 Veiled in flesh the God - head see! Hail, in - car - nate de - i - ty!
 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

with an - gel - ic hosts pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
 Pleas'd as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!
 born to raise each child of earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Refrain

Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born king!"

AFIRMATION OF FAITH

C We believe that for generations people have gathered together on this holy night, because there is something about this story that speaks to the deepest parts of us. We believe in bundling up this hope, this good news, and passing it on— to our children, to our neighbors, to the world around us. I believe my voice can make a difference, just like I believe this story can make a difference, so I will not stay quiet. I will tell this story—of a love that makes room for all. I will sing this story—of a love that knows our name. I will live this story—because love has come again. I believe that words have power. I will not stay quiet. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION—With wonder and thanksgiving for Christ’s coming into the world, we pray for the church, the life of the earth, and the whole human family.

A brief silence. Each petition ends:

P God of grace,
C **hear our prayer.**

P Pondering the mystery of eternal love made flesh in Christ Jesus, we commend all for whom we pray to the mercy of God.

C **Amen.**

OFFERING

OFFERTORY HYMN

“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 **Good and loving God, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be blessing for others. With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

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, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

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

LAMB OF GOD

Page 191



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.

O Little Town of Bethlehem

1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
 2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!
 4 O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;

A - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - d'ring love.
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.
 cast out our sin, and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.

yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light,
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
 No ear may hear his com - ing; but, in this world of sin,
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;

The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
 and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!
 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
 oh, come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

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 Radiant God, with our eyes we have seen your salvation, and in this meal we have feasted on your grace. May your Word take flesh in us, that we may be your holy people, revealing your glory made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Candle Lighting Instructions

The ushers will receive their light from the Pastor. They will then come down the center aisle holding their candle upright. You will tip your wick to their candle. As soon as your candle is lit hold it upright and offer the light to your neighbor who will tip their candle to yours. The candles may be extinguished when the lights come back on.

CANDLELIGHTING HYMN

ELW# 281

Silent Night, Holy Night! *Stille Nacht, Heilige Nacht!*



	Stil - le	Nacht,	hei - li - ge	Nacht!	Al - les	schläft,
1	Si - lent	night,	ho - ly	night!	All	is calm,
2	Si - lent	night,	ho - ly	night!	Shep - herds	quake
3	Si - lent	night,	ho - ly	night!	Son	of God,



	ein - sam	wacht	nur	das	trau - te,	hoch - hei - li - ge	Paar.
	all	is	bright	round	yon	vir - gin	moth - er and child.
	at	the	sight;	glo - ries	stream	from	heav - en a - far,
	love's	pure	light	ra - dian	beams	from	your ho - ly face,



Hold - er Kna - be im lok - ki - gen Haar, schlaf in himm - li - scher
 Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly
 heav'n - ly hosts . . . sing, al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is
 with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at your



Ruh, schlaf in himm - li - scher Ruh.
 peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
 birth, Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.

Silence

BLESSING

P As you leave this place, may you go knowing that from generation to generation, we have been claimed and loved. From generation to generation, God has been by our side. From generation to generation, we are not alone. The God of yesterday and the God of tomorrow knows you by name, loves you, and calls you forth, saying, “Go be he person you are called to be, love wildly, do justice, and come back soon.”

C **May it be so. Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

ELW# 267

Joy to the World



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
 3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the



ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
 songs em - ploy; while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -



room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
 plains re - peat the sound-ing joy, re - peat the sound-ing
 flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

DISMISSAL

P Go over the hills and everywhere and tell the story. Christ, the newborn king, is with you.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“Rejoice and Be Merry” arrangement by Robert Powell

Henrietta Atkin, pianist/Wayne Ryerson, oboist

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CELEBRATING THE CHRISTMAS SEASON

The Poinsettias decorating the sanctuary are to the Glory of God and in honor or memory of loved ones from the following people:

Linda Andrade in memory of her sister Natalie and her brother Jeff.

Janet Campbell in honor of Alan & Darlene Campbell.

Pat & Sue Flanagan and Robert Carter in memory of Dean, beloved brother and son, and in memory of Frank & Myrtle Dean, Thomas Dean, and Darlene Kessling.

Alan & Barb Miralgio in memory of Agnes & Frank Miralgio.

Pastor Darryl Thompson Powell to the Glory of God

Virginia Schultz in memory of her husband Louis Schultz and in memory of her daughter Janet Ptaszynski.

Barbara Ziemer in memory of Ron. Ziemer.

Poinsettias may be taken home after the service

