

# **Resurrection Lutheran Church**

9777 Grand Avenue

Franklin Park, IL 60131

Phone: 847-455-7013

E-mail: office@rlcfp.org, Website: www.rlcfp.org

**Serving Our Neighbors by Sharing Our Blessings**

**Sunday, December 17, 2023—9:30 AM**

**Third 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**

*“Rejoice always,” begins the reading from 1 Thessalonians. Isaiah and the psalmist make clear that God is turning our mourning into laughter and shouts of joy. “All God’s children got a robe,” go the words of a spiritual. It is not so much a stately, formal, pressed outfit as it is a set of party clothes, clothes we are happy to wear. We receive that robe in baptism, and in worship we gather for a foretaste of God’s party.*

## **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** Our God can part the sea.

**C** **God can bring water from a rock, and provide bread in the desert.**

**P** Our God can walk on water.

**C** **He can heal the sick, and turn water into wine.**

**P** Our God sets the stars in the sky.

**C** **God hears our voice when we cry, and is closer than our own breath.**

**P** There is nothing our God cannot do.

**C** **Let us stand in awe. Let us worship God with wonder.**

## CANDLE LIGHTING LITURGY

P How does a weary world practice joy?

C **By dancing, and throwing birthday parties.**

P By hanging Christmas lights, and holding sleepy babies. By singing loudly, and looking for good news.

C **By telling the story of Jesus, and showing up for our community.**

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

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

## HYMN

*“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel“*  
(versus 5 & 6)

ELW #257

5 O come, O Key of David, come,  
and open wide our heav'nly home;  
make safe the way that leads on high,  
and close the path to misery. *Refrain*

6 O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer;  
O Sun of justice, now draw near.  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
and death's dark shadow put to flight. *Refrain*

7 O come, O King of nations, come,  
O Cornerstone that binds in one:  
refresh the hearts that long for you;  
restore the broken, make us new. *Refrain*

8 O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here  
until the Son of God appear. *Refrain*

## CALL TO CONFESSION

P If you spend any time with a child, you will quickly notice that children see the world differently. For a child, a ladybug is a miracle. A pine tree is a wonder. Curiosity is a love language, and water is not only for survival, but for joy. As adults, we forget this language of awe and wonder, and when we do, we distance ourselves from God. In confession, we have the opportunity to close that distance. So let us return to God with hearts wide open. Let us return to God in prayer. Join me in the prayer of confession:

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**C** Holy God, somewhere in our childhood we face pressure to outgrow awe. We turn into adults who obsess over data and facts. We praise those who have answers, and assume that wonder is an answerless game. Forgive us for closing that door to you. Remind us that the kingdom of God belongs to children. Teach us the ways of awe and wonder, so that like Zechariah, when we find ourselves speechless, our first words will be words of praise. With hearts open wide, we pray, amen.

## WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

**P** Family of faith, Just as we marvel at mountains and newborns, at sunrises and sunsets, God marvels at us. There is nothing you could do or leave undone that could prevent God from loving you. So hear and believe the good news of the gospel:

**C** We are forgiven. We are loved. We belong 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

## OPENING HYMN

ELW #242

### Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn



1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for  
2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -  
3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when  
4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, though



an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing. Sing out your joy, for  
man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, his hum - ble song is  
all the world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so  
dark the win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall



soon he is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing,  
qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing;  
qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing.  
crown you with light, be strong and lov - ing and fear - less.



Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to -  
mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing -  
Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in  
Love be our song and love our prayer and love our end - less



geth - er, he o - pens wide the heav'n - ly door and  
kind - ness, the thun - der of his an - thems roll to  
won - der, the weak be raised a - bove the strong, and  
sto - ry; may God fill ev - 'ry day we share and



lives now in - side us for - ev - er.  
shat - ter all ha - tred and blind - ness.  
weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.  
bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

## 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 the universe, make our hearts porous. Open our eyes, as if for the first time, so that we might see your world with awe and wonder once again. We often approach scripture with an analytical lens, intellectualizing the stories heard, bringing historical context and textual criticism to the table. For just a moment, pause those instincts to make room for wonder. Help us greet this text with awe and gratitude before we begin dissecting it for truth. For I am confident, that in doing so, we will not only find you in the hallways of our thoughts, but in the pathways of our hearts. With gratitude we pray: keep us open.

C Amen.

## FIRST READING: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

*Though the people had returned to Jerusalem from exile in Babylon, they continued to face hardship and oppression. In the language of the jubilee year described in Leviticus 25, the prophet, moved by the spirit of God, announces deliverance for those who are oppressed and comfort for those who mourn.*

<sup>1</sup>The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,  
because the LORD has anointed me;  
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,  
to bind up the brokenhearted,  
to proclaim liberty to the captives,  
and release to the prisoners;

<sup>2</sup>to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,  
and the day of vengeance of our God;  
to comfort all who mourn;

<sup>3</sup>to provide for those who mourn in Zion—  
to give them a garland instead of ashes,  
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,  
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.  
They will be called oaks of righteousness,  
the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.

<sup>4</sup>They shall build up the ancient ruins,  
they shall raise up the former devastations;  
they shall repair the ruined cities,  
the devastations of many generations.

<sup>8</sup>For I the LORD love justice,  
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;  
I will faithfully give them their recompense,

and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.  
<sup>9</sup>Their descendants shall be known among the nations,  
and their offspring among the peoples;  
all who see them shall acknowledge  
that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed.  
<sup>10</sup>I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,  
my whole being shall exult in my God;  
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,  
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,  
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,  
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.  
<sup>11</sup>For as the earth brings forth its shoots,  
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,  
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise  
to spring up before all the nations.

L The word of the Lord.  
C **Thanks be to God.**

#### **PSALM: Psalm 126** (read responsively)

<sup>1</sup>When the LORD restored the for- | tunes of Zion,  
then were we like | those who dream.  
<sup>2</sup>**Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with | shouts of joy.  
Then they said among the nations, “The LORD has done great | things for  
them.”**  
<sup>3</sup>The LORD has done great | things for us,  
and we are | glad indeed.  
<sup>4</sup>**Restore our for- | tunes, O LORD,  
like the watercourses | of the Negeb.**  
<sup>5</sup>Those who | sowed with tears  
will reap with | songs of joy.  
<sup>6</sup>**Those who go out weeping, carry- | ing the seed,  
will come again with joy, shoulder- | ing their sheaves**

#### **SECOND READING:1 Thessalonians 5:16-24**

*Paul concludes his letter to the Thessalonians by encouraging them to live lives of continual joy, prayer, and thanksgiving. The closing blessing is grounded in the hope of Christ’s coming.*

<sup>16</sup>Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup>pray without ceasing, <sup>18</sup>give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. <sup>19</sup>Do not quench the Spirit. <sup>20</sup>Do not despise the words of prophets, <sup>21</sup>but test everything; hold fast to what is good; <sup>22</sup>abstain from every form of evil.

<sup>23</sup>May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>24</sup>The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

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: Luke 1:57-66

P The holy gospel according to Luke

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

<sup>57</sup>Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. <sup>58</sup>Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her. <sup>59</sup>On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him Zechariah after his father. <sup>60</sup>But his mother said, "No; he is to be called John." <sup>61</sup>They said to her, "None of your relatives has this name." <sup>62</sup>Then they began motioning to his father to find out what name he wanted to give him. <sup>63</sup>He asked for a writing tablet and wrote, "His name is John." And all of them were amazed. <sup>64</sup>Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue freed, and he began to speak, praising God. <sup>65</sup>Fear came over all their neighbors, and all these things were talked about throughout the entire hill country of



Judea. <sup>66</sup>All who heard them pondered them and said, "What then will this child become?" For, indeed, the hand of the Lord was with him.

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

SERMON

Pastor Darryl Thompson Powell

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW #248

### People, Look East



1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing  
2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is  
3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the  
4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new



of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,  
plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,  
bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,  
life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming



trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look  
that in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look  
bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look  
with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look



east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.  
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.  
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.  
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.



## **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**C We believe in a God who knows our names,  
who counts the hairs on our heads, and carries the dreams in our hearts.  
We believe that God’s fingerprints are all over creation,  
and that God is forever speaking to us in a million different ways.  
We believe that awe and wonder,  
goosebumps and laughter,  
telling stories and paying attention,  
are all ways that we can say thank you  
to our creating, sustaining, and loving God.  
Therefore we commit ourselves to moving through this world with eyes wide  
open, with porous hearts, and grateful spirits.  
We commit ourselves to living lives of awe, wonder, and gratitude,  
trusting that these things will forever draw us deeper into God’s loving arms.  
We believe. We stand in awe. Thanks be to God!**

## **PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE**

**P Holy God, Christ with us, Once again we bow our heads. Once again we close  
our eyes. Once again we draw ourselves closer to you in prayer. Meet us here.  
Surround us with your loving presence. From sunrise to sunset, you fill us with  
awe. For that, we pause to give you gratitude. Thank you for the way the sun shines  
through our windows, for the mist rising off the river, for the warmth of a cup of  
coffee, for the joy of returning home, for the beauty of a crowded table, and for the  
glory of a sky full of stars.**

God, we are in constant awe of you. The story of Zechariah and Elizabeth reminds us that there is nothing you cannot do, and there is no grief that you do not know. For that we give thanks. However, even with this good news at hand, we know that there are many in this world who cannot find the energy to practice awe or wonder because they are so deep in grief. So today, gracious God, we pray for those for whom awe feels out of reach. Be with every parent who worries about a sick child. Be with every child who worries about a sick parent. Be with every person waiting on the doctor’s phone call, waiting on the next month’s paycheck, waiting for the next warm meal.

Holy God, surround those with broken hearts who are trying to stitch the pieces together, praying that one day they might be able to feel awe again. All the while, we will keep gathering together and turning to you to remind us that you are the God of the impossible. You are the one who floods our world with awe. You are the one who knows our names. So together we pray, using 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, 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

## **THIS WEEK AT RESURRECTION**

### **Monday, December 18**

12:00 pm      Food Pantry & Clothing Closet

### **Tuesday, December 19**

### **Wednesday, December 20**

1:00 pm      Midweek Service

2:00 pm      Bible Study

6:00 pm      Choir Rehearsal

7:30 pm      Evening Service

### **Thursday, December 21**

7:30 pm      Al-Anon Meeting

### **Friday, December 22**

Pastor Darryl's Sabbath

### **Saturday, December 23**

### **Sunday, December 24**

9:30 am      Worship, Holy Communion

4:00 pm      Christmas Eve Service

10:30 pm      Christmas Eve Concert

11:00 pm      Worship Service

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 Pat & Sue Flanagan in honor of all the volunteers.



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, sweatpants 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! **This will be the last Sunday that we are collecting so that we can get the funds to LSSI in time for Christmas.**

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.



## **Share the Gift**

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 28, 2024, 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 Sunday December 31<sup>th</sup> and Share the Gift will match those donations up to the first \$1,000 received.



**PRAY FOR MEMBERS:** Russ S, 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:** Dana, 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, 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.