

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, March 10, 2024—9:30 AM

**The Fourth Sunday of Lent
Wandering Heart: “I’m fixed upon it”**

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

The fourth of the Old Testament promises providing a baptismal lens this Lent is the promise God makes to Moses: those who look on the bronze serpent will live. In today’s gospel Jesus says he will be lifted up on the cross like the serpent, so that those who look to him in faith will live. When we receive the sign of the cross in baptism, that cross becomes the sign we can look to in faith for healing, for restored relationship to God, for hope when we are dying.

WELCOME

CENTERING TIME

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

CENTERING MUSIC

CALL TO WORSHIP

P On our worst days,

C God is good.

P On our best days,

C God is good.

P When life is consistent,

C God is good.

P And when life turns on its head,

C God is good.

P Day and night, Monday through Sunday,

C God is good. God is here. God is love.

P Hold tight to that good news. Let us worship God!

CALL TO CONFESSION

P There's a moment in our scripture today when Jesus turns to Peter, named "the rock" of the church, and says, "Get behind me, Satan!"

I don't know about you all, but that's a pretty bad day for Peter. It's a pretty bad day when Jesus calls you Satan!

Fortunately, this absurd moment comforts me with the knowledge that even Peter made mistakes. Peter, who was given the keys to Heaven. Peter, Jesus' right-hand man, made mistakes just like me. And still, Jesus chose him.

Knowing that, let us speak honestly with God. For even on our worst days, we be long to God, and that will never change.
Join me in prayer—

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

C Holy God,

We often find ourselves moving through a world that does not make sense.

Like Peter, we want to yell out, "This should not happen!"

We want to control scenarios beyond our reach. We want to hold your world in our hands.

Forgive us for the moments when we lead with declarations instead of curiosity. Forgive us for arguing when we could listen.

Forgive us for fixating on one truth, when we could open ourselves up to many.

Softener our hard edges and teach us how to listen.

With hope in our hearts we pray, amen.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

P Friends, no matter how many times you have dug your heels in, no matter how many fights you have wanted to pick with God, no matter how many times you have disagreed, raged, or clung to what you know instead of embracing holy change— we worship a God of grace.

Nothing can separate us from God's love, not even a stubborn attitude or a tense heart. So hear and believe the good news of the gospel:

God's love for us will always be deeper than we can imagine. We are seen. We are loved. And we are forgiven.

Now follow Peter, and go be the Church in the world.

C **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 #604

O Christ, Our Hope



1 O Christ, our hope, our hearts' de - sire, cre - a - tion's
2 How vast your mer - cy to ac - cept the bur - den
3 But now the bonds of death are burst, the ran - som
4 Oh, let your might - y love pre - vail to purge us
5 All praise to you, as - cend - ed Lord; all glo - ry



might-y Lord, re - deem - er of the fall - en world, by
of our sin, and bow your head in cru - el death to
has been paid; you reign a - bove at God's right hand, in
of our pride, that we may stand be - fore your throne by
ev - er be to Fa - ther, Son, and Spir - it blest through



ho - ly love out - poured, by ho - ly love out - poured:
make us clean with - in, to make us clean with - in.
robes of light ar - rayed, in robes of light ar - rayed.
mer - cy pu - ri - fied, by mer - cy pu - ri - fied,
all e - ter - ni - ty, through all e - ter - ni - ty!

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 ILLUMINATION

P Listening God,

If we could attach ourselves to you, we would.

We would scribble your scripture onto our tender hearts. We would weave your good news into the fiber of our being. We would bind ourselves to you, but instead, we wander.

Instead of attaching ourselves to you, we find ourselves swept up in the business of the day.

Like a seesaw of faithfulness, we move back and forth, up and down, constantly trying to find you in the midst of it all.

So speak clearly to us now.

Quiet the distractions long enough for us to affix ourselves to your good news. We are listening.

We are hungry. We are hopeful.

C **Amen**

FIRST READING: Numbers 21:4-9

Though God provides food and water for the Israelites in the wilderness, they whine and grumble. They forget about the salvation they experienced in the exodus. God punishes them for their sin, but when they repent God also provides a means of healing: a bronze serpent lifted up on a pole.

⁴From Mount Hor [the Israelites] set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. ⁵The people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.” ⁶Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. ⁷The people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸And the Lord said to Moses, “Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.” ⁹So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

L The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22 (read responsively)

¹Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good,
for God’s mercy endures forever.

²**Let the redeemed of the LORD proclaim
that God redeemed them from the hand of the foe,**

³gathering them in from the lands;
from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

¹⁷**Some were fools and took rebellious paths;
through their sins they were afflicted.**

¹⁸They loathed all manner of food
and drew near to death’s door.

¹⁹**Then in their trouble they cried to the LORD
and you delivered them from their distress.**

²⁰You sent forth your word and healed them
and rescued them from the grave.

²¹**Let them give thanks to you, LORD, for your steadfast love
and your wonderful works for all people.**

²²Let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving
and tell of your deeds with shouts of joy.

SECOND READING: Ephesians 2:1-10

While we were dead in our sinfulness, God acted to make us alive as a gift of grace in Christ Jesus. We are saved not by what we do but by grace through faith. Thus our good works are really a reflection of God's grace at work in our lives.

¹You were dead through the trespasses and sins ²in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. ³All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. ⁴But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us ⁵even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—⁶and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—⁹not the result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

P The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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We are turn - ing, Lord, to hear you; you are mer - ci - ful and kind -



slow to an - ger, rich in bless - ing, and with love to us in - clined.

GOSPEL: Matthew 16:21-23

P The holy gospel according to Matthew

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

²¹From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. ²²And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." ²³But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

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

SERMON

Pastor Darryl Thompson Powell

HYMN OF THE DAY

The Way
 RATHBUN 8.7.8.7

Words by Anna Strickland, 2023

Music by Ithamar Conkey, 1851

Faith - ful - ly I learned to fol - low Step by
 Life was ea - sy, faith was sta - ble Then the
 Thread by thread my faith un - rav - eled When the
 Though the way leads through steep can - yons I sur -

step and not to stray March - ing on with
 path - way climbed up - hill Life got hard - er
 way be - came un - known So - lid ground gave
 ren - der my con - trol Christ is still my

10

proud bra - va - do Claim - ing Je - sus as the way
 past the cra - dle Je - sus Christ I fol - lowed still
 way to gra - vel So I cling to Christ a - lone
 sure com - pan - ion As the path be - fore un - folds

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AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

P I believe in a God of second chances,

C a God who sees through my stubbornness and holds my fear with tenderness.

P I believe that this God of second chances uses ordinary people like Peter to do good in the world.

C Therefore, I believe and hope that God can use me too.

P I believe that from time to time, God invites us to imagine the impossible. I believe that from time to time, God invites us to change our minds.

C This change is holy and important work, although challenging. When fear and scarcity plague me, or when the impossible feels out of reach, I believe that God meets me with grace and invites me to follow.

P Thanks be to God for a love like that.

C Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION—Trusting in God’s promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need.

A brief silence. Each petition ends:

P Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, 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.



Scan to donate!

OFFERING PRAYER

P Let us pray.

C **God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DIALOGUE

P The Lord be with you.

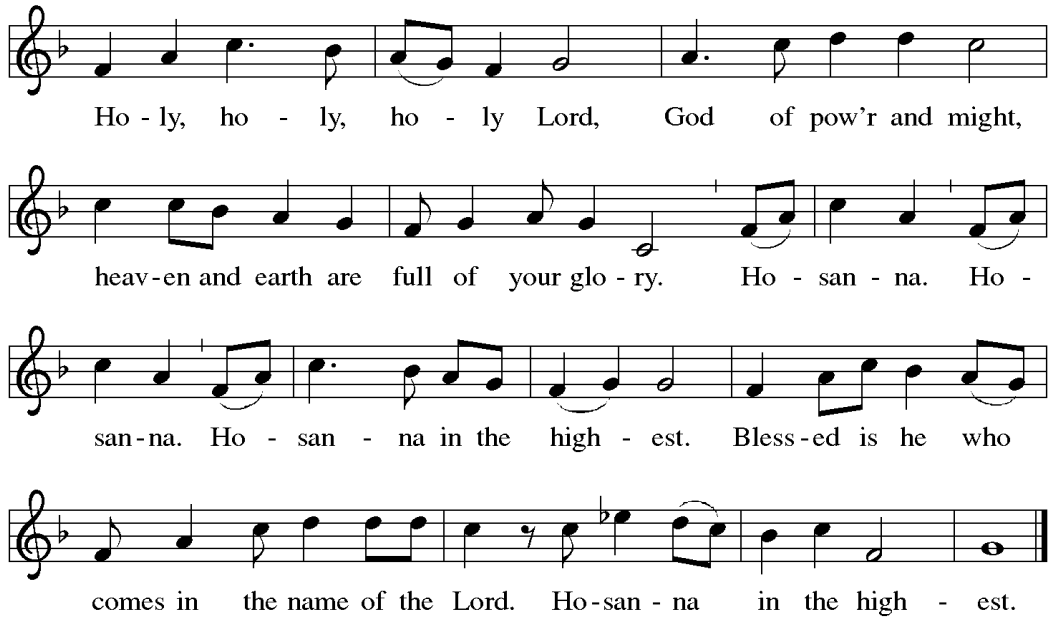
C **And also with you.**

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.**



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

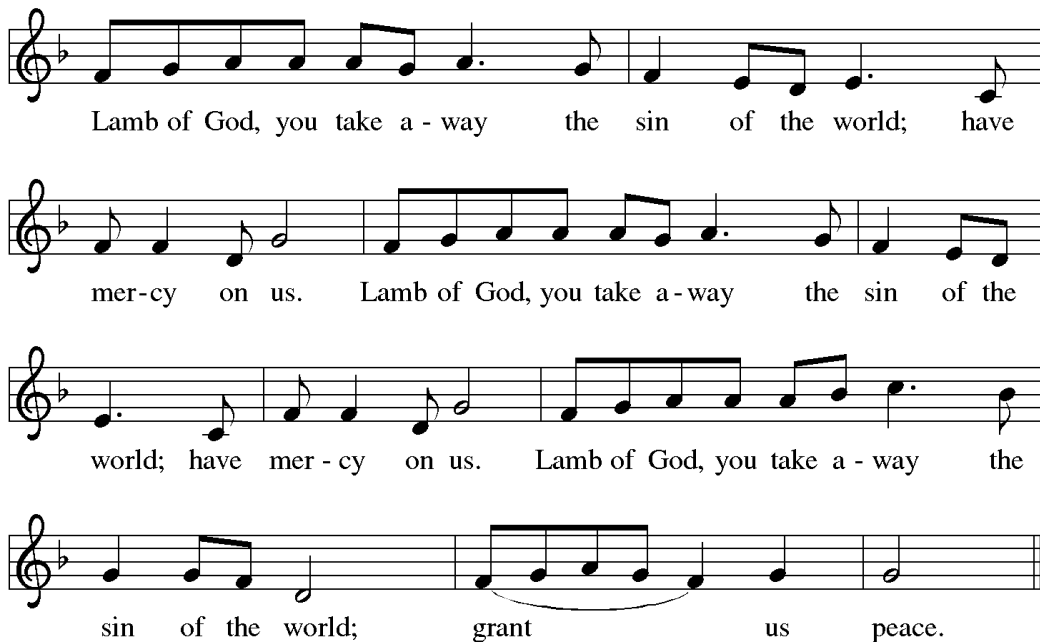
THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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. The bread is gluten free.*

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 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 The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.
C Amen.

SENDING MUSIC

STATING OUR MISSION

P Resurrection, what is our mission?
C Serving Our Neighbors by Sharing Our Blessings!

BENEDICTION

P Beloved wanderer,
as you leave this place,
may you carry your curious heart on your sleeve. May you look for God in every
face.
May you find the courage to get out of the boat, to run to the tomb,
and to speak of your faith.
And when the world falls apart,
may you hear God's voice deep within,
saying, "Take heart, it is I, be not afraid." You are called.
You are blessed.
In both your ups and your downs, you always belong to God.
Go now in peace.
Go trusting that good news.
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, March 11

12:00 pm Food Pantry & Clothing Closet

6:00 pm Council Meeting

Tuesday, March 12

6:00 pm Grant Meeting

Wednesday, March 13

1:00 pm Lent Service

2:00 pm Bible Study

6:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

7:30 pm Lent Service

Thursday, March 14

7:30 pm Al-Anon Meeting

Friday, March 15

Pastor Darryl's Sabbath

Saturday, March 16

Sunday, March 17

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 Sue Koevenig in honor of her granddaughter Jac's 16th birthday.



For the month of March we are asking for donations of rice but all donations are very much appreciated!



The Clothing Closet is in need of men's jeans and men's casual shirts.



We are in the process of updating our RLC 2024 church directories. Please look at your current directory to make sure that your information is correct. If not, call or email the office or fill out a form that is located on the brown table outside the sanctuary and return to the office.



PRAY FOR MEMBERS: Karen S, Rita V, Judy H, Jan R, Russ S, Janet C, Lindsay, Valentina, Virginia S, June K and family, Dolores B, Janet G, Irwin K, and Donna T.

FRIENDS AND FAMILY OF RLC MEMBERS: Joyce F, Eric, Pastor Finney, Dana, Leena, Jacque, Diane L, Marilyn R, Ed, Emily F, Lori, Michelle S, Ayla, Curtis, Allen, Pastor Tim, 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, 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.

EASTER FLOWERS

You are invited to share in decorating the church with flowers for Easter by ordering spring plants that you make take home after worship service on Easter Sunday.

If you would like to have a plant reserved in your name, please either complete the form below and drop it in the offering plate along with your payment, send it in the mail or drop it off at the church.

Orders need to be received or called in to the office no later than Sunday, March 17.

PLEASE ORDER _____ Easter plant (s)

_____ Easter Lily \$20.00

_____ Hyacinth \$15.00

_____ Tulip \$15.00

NAME _____

PHONE _____

Given in **honor** or in **memory** (please circle one)

of: _____

