

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, January 7, 2024—9:30 AM

Celebration of Epiphany

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 feast of Epiphany (“manifestation”) concludes the Christmas season with a celebration of God’s glory revealed in the person of Jesus Christ. In Isaiah and Ephesians, that glory is proclaimed for all nations and people. Like the light of the star that guided the magi to Jesus, the light of Christ reveals who we are: children of God who are claimed and washed in the waters of baptism. We are sent out to be beacons of the light of Christ, sharing the good news of God’s love to all people.

PRELUDE “”

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 There are some days when I need the reminder that I belong to God. Do you ever feel that way?

- C Yes. We do. The world can be a harsh place; we often need that reminder.**
P Well then, let us care for one another. Let us speak the truth we each need to hear.
Church, you belong to God. You are God's beloved.
C Friend, you belong to God. You are God's beloved.
P Let us worship the God who knows our names.
C Let us worship the God who calls us beloved. Amen.

INVOCATION

P God of the weary traveler...

...We are here. You are here. And we are so very grateful.

C Amen.

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

L Church family, our faith is decorated with rituals and rhythms that help tie us to God. Confession is one of those rituals. Every week we gather in this space and tell the truth about our lives. And every week God hears our prayers and offers us grace. This holy dance of confession and mercy is one of the many rituals I could not live without.

So let us embrace this holy tradition together. Let us pray:

C God of rhythms, we confess: our faith would not be what it is without rituals. Unlike you, we depend on bread and water. We have to return to this space again and again to hear old, familiar stories.

For if we stopped, we know it would not take long before we lost our way. Forgive us for our fragility, and thank you for giving us ordinary rituals and rhythms to hold onto. With grateful and humble hearts we pray, amen.

L Friends, it is not enough to hear once a month or once a year that you are forgiven. We need to hear it every single week. Every single week we need to be reminded that we are held in God's loving embrace.

So hear this good news: no matter where you are on your journey of life, love, or faith, and no matter what you have done or left undone, you belong to God. You are claimed. You are known. You are forgiven.

This is the good news of the gospel!

C Thanks be to God! Amen!

SHARING OF PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

SHARING OF PEACE

STRAIGHT FROM THE HEART



1 The first No - el the an - gel did say was to
 2 They look - ed up and saw . . a star shin - ing
 3 And by the light of that . . same star three . .
 4 This star drew near to the . . north - west, o'er . .
 5 Then en - tered in those wise . . men three, full . .



cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where
 in . . the east . . be - yond . . them far; and to the
 wise . . men came . . from coun - try far; to seek for a
 Beth - le - hem . . it took . . its rest; and there it
 rev - 'rent - ly . . . up - on . . . their knee, and of - fered



they lay, keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's
 earth it gave . . . great light, and . . so it con -
 king was their . . . in - tent, and to fol - low the
 did both stop . . . and stay right . . o - ver the
 there in his . . . pres - ence their . . gold, . . . and

Refrain



night that was so deep.
 tin-ued both day and night.
 star wher - ev - er it went. No - el, No - el, No -
 place where Je - sus lay.
 myrrh, and frank - in - cense.



el, No - el! Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

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.

HYMN OF PRAISE

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This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



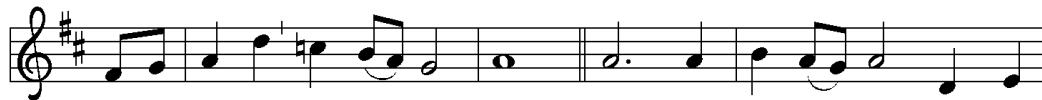
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb



who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



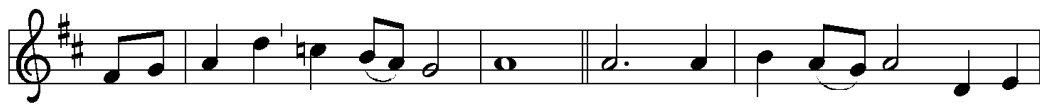
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich-es, wis - dom, and



strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of



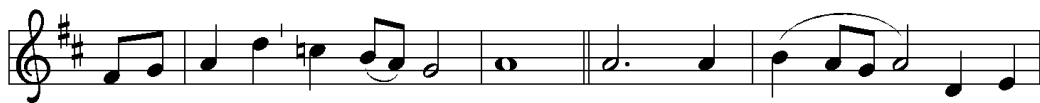
God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,



glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was



slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Beloved God,

C Through the pages of scripture, you have sprinkled your love for us like an echoed refrain. Despite its repeated truth, we too often allow that good news to roll off of us like water, barely allowing it to touch us. Make today different. As we read your Word aloud, let the truth of your love for creation seep into our bones. May we hear your echos of “beloved” deep within us and respond with overflowing joy. We are here. We are listening.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 60:1-6

Jerusalem is assured that nations will make a pilgrimage to her because the light of God's presence is in her midst. The bountiful food of the sea and the profits of international trade will come streaming to Jerusalem and thereby declare God's praise.

¹Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

²For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the LORD will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.

³Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

⁴Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.

⁵Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

⁶A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.
They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 72:1-7, 10-14 (read responsively)

- ¹Give the king your jus- | tice, O God,
and your righteousness to | the king's son;
²**that he may rule your | people righteously
and the | poor with justice;**
³that the mountains may bring prosperity | to the people,
and the | hills, in righteousness.
⁴**Let him defend the needy a- | mong the people,
rescue the poor, and crush | the oppressor.**
⁵May he live as long as the sun and | moon endure,
from one generation | to another.
⁶**Let him come down like rain upon | the mown field,
like showers that wa- | ter the earth.**
⁷In his time may the | righteous flourish;
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall | be no more.
¹⁰**May the kings of Tarshish and of the | isles pay tribute,
and the kings of Sheba and Seba | offer gifts.**
¹¹May all kings bow | down before him,
and all the nations | do him service.
¹²**For the king delivers the poor who cry out | in distress,
the oppressed, and those who | have no helper.**
¹³He has compassion on the low- | ly and poor,
and preserves the lives | of the needy.
¹⁴**From oppression and violence he re- | deems their lives,
and precious is their blood | in his sight.**

SECOND READING: Ephesians 3:1-12

What had been hidden from previous generations is now made known through the gospel ministry of Paul and others. In Christ both Jews and Gentiles participate in the richness of God's promised salvation.

¹This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—²for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, ³and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, ⁴a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. ⁵In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: ⁶that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

⁷Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God’s grace that was given me by the working of his power. ⁸Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, ⁹and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; ¹⁰so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹²in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

P 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.

GOSPEL: Matthew 2:1-12

God’s promise shines bright in the night as magi follow a star to honor a new king. Strangers from a faraway land, they welcome the long-awaited messiah of Israel.

P The holy gospel according to Matthew

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

¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶“And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
 are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
 for from you shall come a ruler
 who is to shepherd my people Israel.’ ”

⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." ⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

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

SERMON

Pastor Darryl Thompson Powell

HYMN OF THE DAY

As with Gladness Men of Old

ELW #302



1 As with glad - ness men of old did the guid - ing star be - hold;
 2 As with joy - ful steps they sped, Sav - ior, to thy low - ly bed,
 3 As they of - fered gifts most rare at thy cra - dle, rude and bare,
 4 Ho - ly Je - sus, ev - 'ry day keep us in the nar - row way;
 5 In the heav'n - ly coun - try bright need they no cre - a - ted light;



as with joy they hailed its light, lead - ing on - ward, beam - ing bright;
 there to bend the knee be - fore thee, whom heav'n and earth a - dore;
 so may we with ho - ly joy, pure and free from sin's al - loy,
 and when earth - ly things are past, bring our ran - somed souls at last
 thou its light, its joy, its crown, thou its sun which goes not down;



so, most gra - cious Lord, may we ev - er - more be led by thee.
 so may we with will - ing feet ev - er seek thy mer - cy seat.
 all our cost - liest trea - sures bring, Christ, to thee, our heav'n - ly king.
 where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glo - ry hide.
 there for - ev - er may we sing al - le - lu - ias to our king.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

C We believe that faith is a journey marked by rituals and rhythms. We come to worship. We confess our sins. We pass the peace. We offer grace. We hear the Word. We baptize children. We break the bread. And we tell the story of a loving God. And through these sacred rituals, we are reminded: we are not alone. God is near, and we have work to do. May this belief shape the rhythm of our lives. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God of heaven and earth...

...With gratitude and joy we pray, amen.

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 Holy God, We bring our gifts before you this morning..

....May it be so.

C 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

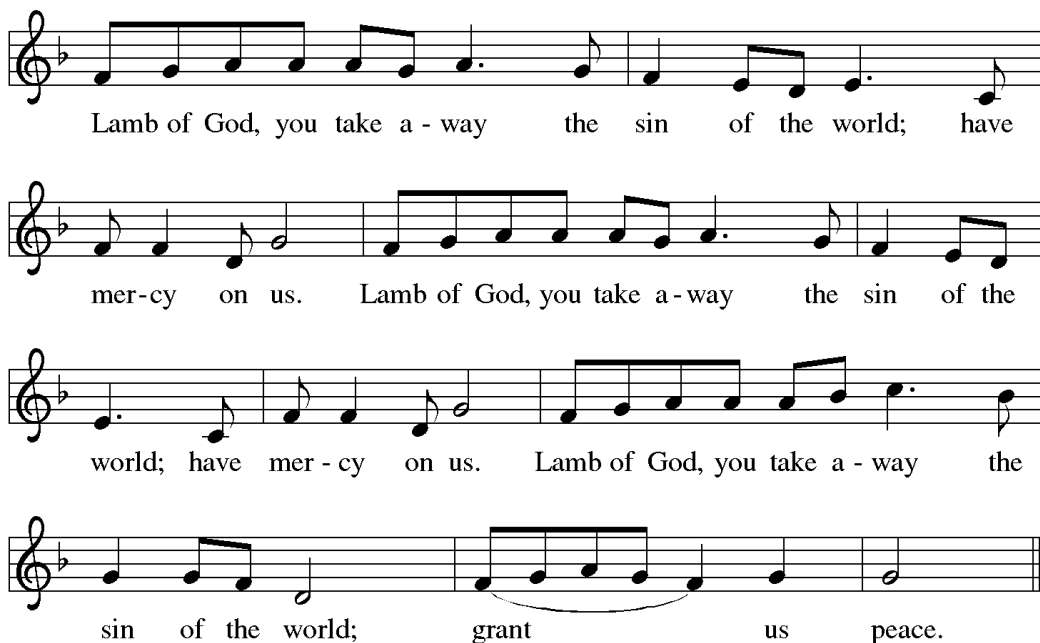
THE LORD'S PRAYER

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. 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 God of open horizons and open roads, like the Magi so many years ago, we are here, seeking you. Step by step, we have wandered into this space (alt. we have wandered into this hour) with the hope of feeling you in our midst. Step by step, you have seen us, claimed us, and called us beloved. Today we have drawn star words. For some, these words are full of meaning, challenge, and invitation already. For others, these words are a blank canvas—inviting you into our lives. So as a new year dawns, we pray that just as you have spoken to the generations before us, you would speak to us again. Allow us to use these star words as a tool that might help us hear you more clearly. May they guide us, as the star guided the Magi. And in a year, may we find ourselves here, together again, with mouths full of praise for the ways in which you have been present with us. Together we pray, with joy in our hearts.

C Amen.

BLESSING

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 Merry Christmas! Amen!

SENDING MUSIC

STATING OUR MISSION

P Resurrection, what is our mission?

C Serving Our Neighbors by Sharing Our Blessings!

DISMISSAL

P Go home a different way. The light of God is shining on you with every step.

C Thanks be to God.

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

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*Many of the prayer used in todays service are by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC
| sanctifiedart.org.”*

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

9:30 am Worship, Holy Communion
11:00 am Coffee Hour

THIS WEEK AT RESURRECTION

Monday, January 9

12:00 pm Food Pantry & Clothing Closet
6:00 pm Council Meeting

Tuesday, January 10

6:30 pm Finance Meeting

Wednesday, January 11

1:00 pm Midweek Service
2:00 pm Bible Study

Thursday, January 12

7:30 pm Al-Anon Meeting

Friday, January 13

Pastor Darryl's Sabbath

Saturday, January 14

Sunday, January 15

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 Karen Shumaker in celebration of her 82nd birthday.



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

Annual Meeting February 11!

Start preparing those reports even though you have extra time to complete them. Our annual meeting will be on February 11 immediately following worship. Don’t worry; we’ll be done in plenty of time for the Super Bowl.



PRAY FOR MEMBERS: Russ S, Linda A, 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, 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.

