

Resurrection Lutheran Church

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Serving Our Neighbors  Sharing Our Blessings

April 17, 2025

Holy Thursday Worship

*Everything [in] Between: “**shouting & silence**”*

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

- A We have come to worship the Trinity,
C **One God, three persons,
beyond our understanding
yet constantly revealing themselves to us.**
- A We have come to worship an infinite being
C **who took on finite flesh: fully human and fully divine—**
A a being who is love itself,
C **yet loathes injustice;**
A who is almighty,
C **yet let go of power
to be in solidarity with outcasts and criminals.**
- A We gather to worship the living God
C **who died.**

OPENING SONG

Bless the Lord #9

FIRST READING: Luke 22:7-13

INVITATION TO CHRIST'S TABLE

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING / A litany of in between

- L Here in this place, we join Jesus in the sacred space between...
- A Trusting in God's eternal solidarity, let us pray:
In the limbo of uncertainty, when all we can do is wait—
with those between paychecks, between jobs, between meals,

- with those in hospital rooms or prison cells,
- C Ever-present Jesus, abide.**
- B With those who fight to be believed by doctors,
who wait for diagnosis, treatment, or results,
and with those who have Long COVID or other serious conditions,
- C Jesus the Suffering Savior, abide.**
- A With those in the closet, and those who've just come out,
with those waiting for surgery, or HRT, or radical acceptance,
- C Queer God, abide.**
- B With those who are sick of waiting:
Indigenous people whose loved ones disappear in silence,
Black communities urged to wait for justice in an onslaught of brutality,
and all those who find themselves burning out
in the endless efforts to resist injustice,
- C Black Christ, native of occupied land, abide.**
- A With all who scramble between
life and death, survival and thriving:
immigrants and refugees,
border crossers and ICE detainees,
the people of Palestine—
bombed, displaced, and denied aid—
- C Jesus the refugee, abide.**
- B With those enduring the worst of climate change,
and all whose homes or whole communities
have been ravaged by natural disasters,
- C Creator God, abide.**
- A With all whom our society fails to protect:
those who are unhoused,
and those whose homes are fractured by violence,
those experiencing mental illness or addiction,
and all who are shoved to the margins,
- C Persecuted Christ, abide.**
- B And when the in-between becomes permanent
with no going back to how things were,
in our moments of despair at the world's pain,
we cry out, "HOW LONG, O LORD?!"
- C Abide with us, everlasting God. Abide with us.**
- L Co-creating and co-suffering God...

...just as it surely gave you courage on that night many years ago.

C Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION *Adapted from Luke 22:14-20.*

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

COMMUNION SONG

Nothing Can Trouble #29

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

L As Jesus nourishes us with his very body, we become the Body of Christ.
May this feast fuel us for the work of joining others in their in-betweens.

C Amen.

CONTINUING THE FEAST

SECOND READING: Luke 22:24-27

GROUP CONVERSATION

1. *How do you think Jesus would define power?*
2. *What does it mean for the greatest to become the least, and for the leader to be like a servant?*
3. *How can our faith community, or the whole Church, lean into Jesus' servant model of leadership?*
4. *Have there been times when you felt you had to be the greatest, the holiest, the most pious—or that you were not holy enough or good enough? How do you work through those feelings?*

JOURNEYING TO THE CROSS

SONG

“By Night” #46

THIRD READING: Luke 23:20-27

FIRST STORY: Simon of Cyrene

CONFESSION

L When we follow in the steps of Jesus, we say yes to bearing his cross—not because there is any kind of value in suffering, not to prove our selflessness, nor because God wills it, but because living as Jesus lived makes the cross inevitable. So together, let us pray:

C Jesus, when we side with you, we side with all who threaten the status quo.

L When we refuse the call to see others' struggles as our own,
we abandon our kin to shoulder their crosses alone.
So we pray, O God,

C embolden us to accept the risks that come with following you—even as we resist the powers and systems that set crosses on our shoulders. Amen.

FOURTH READING: Luke 23:39-43

SECOND STORY: The criminal on the cross

SUNG MEDITATION

“When the Night Becomes Dark” #25

PREPARING FOR THE LAST READING

FIFTH & FINAL READING: Luke 23:44-46, 48

- 44 It was now about noon, and darkness covered the whole earth until about three o'clock,
45a while the sun stopped shining.
45b Then the curtain in the sanctuary tore down the middle.
46a Crying out in a loud voice, Jesus said:
46a “Father, into your hands I entrust my life!”
46b After he said this, he breathed out his last breath.
48 All the crowds who had come together to see this event returned to their homes beating their chests after seeing what had happened.

CLOSING SONG

“Our Darkness (La Ténèbre)” #14

CLOSING LITANY

BLESSING AND SENDING

L And as we leave communal worship to enter deeper into this liminal space between life, death, and life again, go with the knowledge that the Triune God— who fashioned you with love, whose Spirit breathes in and through you, and who shares in our every sorrow and every joy— goes with you, even in doubt, even in death, even to the end of the age.

Go in peace, and in silence,
to wait with those who wait, and mourn with those who mourn.

C **Amen.**

Pastor
Reader A
Reader B
Pianist
Oboist
Violinist

Darryl Thompson Powell
Lauren Obrzut
Barb Miralgio
Henrietta Atkin
Wayne Ryerson
Lindsay Vega