



RESURRECTION LUTHERAN CHURCH, LCMC

NEW LIFE + FOR NOW + FOREVER   

1735 E Main Street - Mankato, MN 56001 | 507-345-4455

THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS | Sunday, December 31, 2023

PRELUDE

WELCOME *and* ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE INVOCATION *and* GATHERING PRAYER

P: We gather under the sign of the cross, and in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray...

C: God of majesty, may your Spirit help us to know that in the midst of all that assails us your promise of light and presence through Jesus Christ remains constant and unchanging. Strengthen our faith, bring us your peace, and send us to share both with others. We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord; who reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen.

HYMN: Angels We Have Heard on High.....RECLAIM No. 108

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS OF SIN

P: The psalmist declares that the God who created us – who loves and redeems us – searches and knows us completely. So we come to God as one from whom no secrets are hidden, to ask for his forgiveness and peace. Even sin and death are not obstacles between us and God. So let us confess our faults that they may be washed away by the mercy of our risen Lord.

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination

P: Gracious God,

C: We confess that we have sinned against you and one another. We are worried and distracted by many things, and we fail to love you above all else. We store up treasures for

ourselves and turn away from our neighbors in need. Forgive us, that we may live in the freedom of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

P: When we were laid low by sin and guilt, God made us alive together with Christ, forgiving us all our trespasses and taking our sins to the cross. Hear the good news of the Gospel: in accordance to the command of our Lord Jesus, and by his authority alone, I forgive you the entirety of all your sins.

C: Amen! Thanks be to God!

THE HYMN OF THANKSGIVING

The musical score is written for Soprano (S) and Alto (A) voices. It consists of five staves of music in a 4/4 time signature with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are: "Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord, Lord God of hosts. Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. 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, ho - san - na in the high - est." The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, ties, and dynamic markings like "div." and "unis."

S, A

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord, Lord God of

hosts. Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

FIRST READING: Isaiah 61:10-62:3

The Spirit of the Lord anointed the prophet to bring good news to Israel, especially to the poor and brokenhearted: That which had laid in ruins for so long would be restored. The ashes would be replaced by a beautiful headdress. What was dead and lifeless would be a fertile garden.

¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the Lord; my soul 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 like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. ¹For as the earth brings forth its sprouts, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations. ¹For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not be quiet, until her righteousness goes forth as brightness, and her salvation as a burning torch. ²The nations shall see your righteousness, and all the kings your glory, and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give. ³You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

R: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 111

The psalmist sang of the greatness of the Lord, who remembered his people with mercy. This one who was trustworthy and true would grant an abundant inheritance to his people.

R: Praise the Lord! I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

C: Great are the works of the Lord, studied by all who delight in them.

R: Full of splendor and majesty is his work, and his righteousness endures forever.

C: He has caused his wondrous works to be remembered; the Lord is gracious and merciful.

R: He provides food for those who fear him; he remembers his covenant forever.

C: He has shown his people the power of his works, in giving them the inheritance of the nations.

R: The works of his hands are faithful and just; all his precepts are trustworthy;

C: they are established forever and ever, to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.

R: He sent redemption to his people; he has commanded his covenant forever. Holy and awesome is his name!

C: The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever!

R: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

SECOND READING: Galatians 4:4-7

St. Paul wrote to the Galatians, reminding them that in God's perfect time he sent his Son to redeem all those who were under the law. This adoption made believers, then and now, daughters and sons. We are heirs of God through Christ, our Lord.

⁴But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, ⁵to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. ⁶And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" ⁷So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

R: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Hal-le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal -
- le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le -
lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.

GOSPEL READING: Luke 2:22-40

P: The Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke, the 2nd Chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord!

²²And when the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³(as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord") ²⁴and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons." ²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. ²⁶And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. ²⁷And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and

when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, ²⁸he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said, ²⁹“Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; ³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation ³¹that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, ³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel.” ³³And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. ³⁴And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, “Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed ³⁵(and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.” ³⁶And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, ³⁷and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem. ³⁹And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

P: This is the Gospel of our Lord!

C: Praise to you, O Christ!

SERMON

HYMN: Your Little Ones, Dear Lord, Are We (vss. 1,2,6,9).....RECLAIM No. 112

OFFERING PRESENTATION

As the usher brings forward the offering, please stand to sing:



Ac - cept, O Lord, the gifts we bring to place up - on your ta - ble.
Our hopes and dreams, our toils and cares we lift in prayer be - fore you.



We do not wor - ship as we ought but on - ly as we're a - ble.
Lord, by your grace now come to us, as hum - bly we a - dore you.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

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.

P: God has made us his people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in this peace and in community with one another, let us confess our faith:

I believe in God the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Each petition ends with the words "Lord, in your mercy." Respond by saying, "Hear our prayer."

LORD'S PRAYER

C: 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.

BENEDICTION

HYMN: Let All Together Praise Our God (see back of the bulletin)

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace, loving and serving in the name of our crucified and risen Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to Worship! Resurrection Lutheran Church is a Christ-centered and cross-focused member congregation of Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ. Members and visitors are encouraged to sign the **friendship pad** at the end of your pew.

We welcome **Rev. Julie Smith** to Resurrection Lutheran Church this morning to preach and lead worship in Pastor Aaron's absence. Julie is the Coordinator for Districts and Fellowships on the national staff of LCMC. Pastor Aaron will return home from vacation this afternoon.

If you made a donation toward the **poinsettia plant** fund and would like to take one home with you this morning, you are welcome to do so after worship. Thank-you for helping us bring beauty and joy to our Sanctuary this holiday season.

Men's Bible Study will resume this Thursday morning at 8:00am. We will begin reading through the book of Genesis. New faces are always welcome for a cup of coffee, good conversation and fellowship.

There will **not be prayer group tomorrow** morning in observance of New Years Day.

Thank-You: *"On behalf of my family, I want to thank the congregation for the many touching gifts we received this Christmas season. We feel so fortunate to be a part of this faith community, and I look forward to what God is going to do among us in 2024."* – Pastor Aaron

Birthdays this week: Sharon Litynski (1st), Matt Wills (6th)

THOSE SERVING TODAY

Pastor: Rev. Julie Smith

Keyboardist: Nikki Basel

Reader: Sharon Litynski

Ushers: Brad Matthes and Rebecca Blum

Greeters: Dave and Helen Schauer

THIS WEEK AT RESURRECTION LUTHERAN

Sunday	December 31	9:30am	Worship
		10:30am	Fellowship
Tuesday	January 2	11:00am	EEO Committee
Wednesday	January 3	Noon	Lectionary Lunch
		1:00pm	Worship Committee
Thursday	January 4	8:00am	Men's Bible Study
Sunday	January 7	9:30am	Worship
		10:30am	Fellowship

Let All Together Praise Our God



1 Let all to - geth - er praise our God be - fore the
2 From God's right hand the Son de - scends, is born an
3 O ten - der Child, you veil in flesh the splen - dor
4 Your moth - er feeds you ten - der - ly, sings you a



high - est throne; to - day God o - pens heav'n a - gain and
in - fant small, and lies in pov - er - ty, his bed a
of your might; a ser - vant's garb now wraps the one who
lul - la - by, while an - gels, hail - ing Da - vid's heir, your



sends the on - ly Son, and sends the on - ly Son.
man - ger in a stall, a man - ger in a stall.
clothed the sky with light, who clothed the sky with light.
glo - ry mag - ni - fy, your glo - ry mag - ni - fy.

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