

Scriptures and Song

The Third Sunday of Advent

Resurrection Lutheran Church of Mankato, MN
Sunday, December 17, 2023 | 9:30am

WELCOME *and* ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS OF SIN

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

C: Amen.

P: Called and gathered together by the Holy Spirit, let us come humbly before God and our brothers and sisters in the faith, confessing our sins, known and unknown, trusting in God's gracious word of forgiveness. Our merciful father, who brings life out of death and transforms us into new creatures through his redeeming word, knows the depths of our hearts. Let us make a confession of our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination

P: Lord Jesus, Risen Savior,

C: We come to you in sorrow for our faults and confess to you our weakness and unbelief. Although in Christ our light has come, we too often prefer the darkness of sin. Forgive us, fill us with your Spirit and free us from the shackles of our failings. Give us the joy of your salvation and make us instruments of peace in the world. Amen.

P: Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glorious mercy of the Lord shines around you. In the name and by the authority of your Savior, Jesus Christ, I announce the forgiveness of all your sins. May the Holy Spirit strengthen your faith, heal your troubled spirit, and equip you to proclaim the greatness of the Lord until the day he comes again.

C: Amen! Thanks be to God!



GATHERING HYMN: God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen (page 6)

CHOIR: Hallelujah (arr: Anna Laura Page and Jean Shafferman)

*Hallelujah! Listen to the music that the angels sing. Hallelujah! Angels singing, Glory to the newborn King!
Ring the bells and sound the trumpet. Spread the news throughout the land.
Heav'nly angels sing, "Hosanna! Christ is born in Bethlehem."*

*All Thy works with joy surround Thee, earth and heav'n reflect Thy rays.
Stars and angels sing around Thee, center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flow'ry meadows, flashing sea.
Chanting bird and flowing fountain, call us to rejoice in thee.*

*Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee, God of glory, Lord of love.
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before Thee, op'ning to the sun above.
Ring the bells and sound the trumpet. Hear the news the angels sing.
Hallelujah! Angel's singing, "Glory to the newborn King!"*

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

L: The light shines in the darkness.

C: And the darkness cannot overcome it.

L: In a world where many experience sorrow and pain, today we light a candle of joy.

The first, second and third Advent candles are lit

L: Behold, you who are walking in the shadows, see the light. Lord, through your prophets you have made your promises known and declare good news to those who are oppressed.

C: O God, give us your joy.

L: We continue to place our hope in your word; a word that binds our broken hearts.

C: O God, give us your joy.

L: We depend upon you, giver of joy. Your presence brings freedom to all captives.

C: O God, give us your joy.

L: Lord, we wear our baptismal garments; help us know that you clothe us in righteousness.

C: O God, give us your joy.

L: Let us pray. Lord, our God, we praise you for your Son, Jesus Christ. He is Emmanuel, the joy of all people. He is the Savior of us all. O Lord, let your blessing come upon us as we gather at this wreath. May its growing light be a sign of Christ's promise of salvation and may he come without delay. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen. Come quickly, Lord Jesus.

L: Please join in singing the hymn "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly."

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN: Infant Holy, Infant Lowly (page 7)

GOSPEL READING: John 1:6-8, 19-28

P: The Holy Gospel according to Saint John, the 1st Chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord!

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. ¹⁹And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” ²⁰He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, “I am not the Christ.” ²¹And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the Prophet?” And he answered, “No.” ²²So they said to him, “Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” ²³He said, “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’ as the prophet Isaiah said.” ²⁴(Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) ²⁵They asked him, “Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?” ²⁶John answered them, “I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, ²⁷even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie.” ²⁸These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

P: This is the Gospel of our Lord!

C: Praise to you, O Christ!

SERMON: Who Are You?

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN: Arise, Your Light Has Come! (*page 7*)

READING: Luke 2:1-7

¹In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

CHOIR: Hush, My Dear in the Manger (*arr: Mark Burrows*)

Hush, my dear, lie still and slumber; Holy angels guard your bed.

Heav'nly blessings without number gently fall around your head.

Sleep my babe, your food and clothing, house and home your friends provide;

All without your care or payment, all your wants shall be supplied.

THE NICENE 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:

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right and salutary, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks to you, O Lord, Holy Father, for in the night of his betrayal...

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

Resurrection Lutheran's communion practices can be found on the "Come To The Table" instructional in your pew. If you are a visitor or guest, please consider referencing this card.

READING: Luke 2:8-14

⁸And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. ¹⁰And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, ¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

CHOIR: All on a Silent Night (*words and arrangement by: Becki Slagle Mayo*)

*On a silent, holy night, a bright, shining star will lend heaven's light.
Voices of angels joyful sing a sweet alleluia to the King;
All on this silent, holy night, all on this silent night.*

BENEDICTION

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN: Go, Tell It on the Mountain (*see page 8*)

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace, loving and serving in the name of the babe of Bethlehem!

C: Thanks be to God!

THOSE SERVING TODAY

Pastor: Rev. Aaron L. Deutsch

Keyboardist: Nikki Basel

Ushers: Daryl and Rita Schoemaker

Greeters: Doug and Sue Mayer

Communion Set Up: Darlene Korstad

Reader: Chuck Kindgren

Communion Assistants: Mike and Vicki Youngerberg

CONTACT OUR PASTOR

Cell Phone: 605-742-4469

Email: aaron.lee.deutsch@gmail.com

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God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen

English carol, 18th century

Traditional melody; harmonized in Bramley & Stainer,
Christmas Carols Old and New (1871)

GOD REST YOU MERRY, Irregular, with refrain

1. God rest you mer - ry, gen - tle - men, let noth - ing you dis - may;
2. From God our heaven - ly Fa - ther a bless - ed an - gel came,
3. "Fear not, then," said the an - gel, "let noth - ing you af - fright;
4. Now to the Lord sing prais - es, all you with - in this place,

1. re - mem - ber Christ our Sav - ior was born on Christ - mas Day
2. and un - to cer - tain shep - herds brought tid - ings of the same,
3. this day is born a Sav - ior of a pure vir - gin bright,
4. and with true love and gentle - ness each oth - er now em - brace;

1. to save us all from Sa - tan's power when we were gone a - stray.
2. how that in Beth - le - hem was born the Son of God by name.
3. to free all those who trust in him from Sa - tan's power and might."
4. this ho - ly tide of Christ - mas all oth - ers doth de - face.

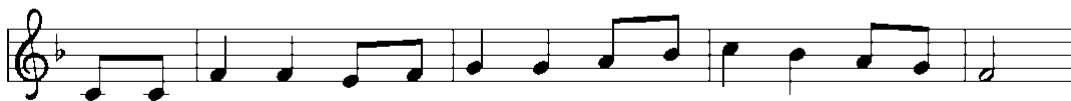
Refrain
O tid - ings of com - fort and joy, com - fort and joy;

O tid - ings of com - fort and joy.

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly



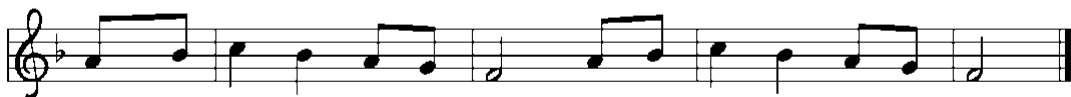
1 In - fant ho - ly, in - fant low - ly, for his bed a - ttle stall;
2 Flocks were sleep - ing, shep - herds keep - ing vig - il till the morn - ing new



ox - en low - ing, lit - tle know - ing Christ the child is Lord of all.
saw the glo - ry, heard the sto - ry, tid - ings of a gos - pel true.



Swift - ly wing - ing, an - gels sing - ing, bells are ring - ing, tid - ings bring - ing;
Thus re - joic - ing, free from sor - row, prais - es voic - ing, greet the mor - row:



Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!
Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

Arise, Your Light Has Come!



1 A - rise, your light has come! The Spir - it's call o - bey;
2 A - rise, your light has come! Fling wide the pris - on door;
3 A - rise, your light has come! All you in sor - row born,
4 A - rise, your light has come! The moun - tains burst in song!



show forth the glo - ry of your God which shines on you to - day.
pro - claim the cap - tive's lib - er - ty, good tid - ings to the poor.
bind up the bro - ken - heart - ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.
Rise up like ea - gles on the wing, God's pow'r will make us strong.

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

Refrain

Go, tell it on the moun - tain, o - ver the hills, and ev - 'ry - where;

go, tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born.

1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when lo, a - bove the earth
3 Down in a low - ly man - ger the hum-ble Christ was born,

Refrain

be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ - mas morn.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to Worship! Resurrection Lutheran Church is a Christ-centered and cross-focused member congregation of Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ. To learn more about our association of churches please visit www.lcmc.net. Members and visitors are encouraged to sign the **friendship pad** at the end of your pew before the service begins or during announcements.

Held on the night of the Winter Solstice, which is the longest night of the year, **Blue Christmas** invites worshippers to come together to acknowledge that Christmas is not a happy time for everyone. Instead of joy, feelings of grief and heartache fill the holidays. It could be mourning someone who has died or who may die soon, coping with the aftermath of divorce, job loss, sickness, loneliness — any of the unfortunate tragedies life sometimes serves up. Join us this Thursday, December 21st at 6:30pm for a time of scripture, song, prayer and the ultimate hope that God is with us in the midst of all life's circumstances.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship will be held next Sunday, December 24th at 5:30pm. Join us for this beautiful and contemplative service, as we come to the culmination and end of our waiting this Advent season to celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Be sure to stop in the narthex to admire the **latest installment** of the paintings by Bill Bukowski, retired professor of Media Arts at Bethany Lutheran College. This depiction of the nativity is the 4th of 5 pieces Bill is painting for Resurrection Lutheran and can be found on the west wall of the narthex, above the entrance into the Sanctuary.

Are you interested in delivering one of the **WOW Christmas packages** for our homebound members? They can be found in the narthex with the addresses attached. Help us spread some Christmas cheer this holiday season!

THIS WEEK AT RESURRECTION LUTHERAN

Sunday	December 17	9:30am	Worship
		10:30am	Fellowship
Monday	December 18	10:00am	Morning Prayer
Wednesday	December 20	6:15pm	Soup Supper
		7:00pm	Midweek Advent Worship
Thursday	December 21	8:00am	Men's Bible Study
		6:30pm	Blue Christmas Worship Service
Sunday	December 24	9:30am	Worship
		10:30am	Fellowship
		5:30pm	Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship