



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 29, 2024

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: Steadfast God, grant patience and faithfulness to your servants as we bear witness to the incarnation of your Son. Teach us to clothe ourselves with love so that our lives will bear witness to your divine love for all creation; through your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

HYMN: Your Little Ones, Dear Lord, Are We (vss. 1,3,8,9).....RECLAIM No. 112

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS OF SIN

P: We give thanks and praise to our Heavenly Father for sending his one and only Son to share our humanity, to carry our guilt, and become for us the perfect Lamb who takes away the sin of the world. Though he was rich, he became poor, that in his poverty we might become rich. Gathered in the name of Christ, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and one another.

Silence is kept for self-examination and reflection

P: Gracious God,

C: in Jesus Christ you came among us as the light shining in the darkness. We confess our sin against you in thought, word, and deed by what we have done and by what we have left undone. Forgive us and renew our hope, that we may trust the light of your face, and welcome the truth of Christ, our Lord. Amen.

P: People of God, I bring to you good news of great joy: to you is born a Savior, Christ the Lord. As a fellow member of the priesthood of all believers, and in the name of Jesus, I declare unto you the forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

THE HYMN OF THANKSGIVING

The musical score is written for Soprano (S) and Alto (A) voices. It consists of five staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. 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 whole, half, quarter, and eighth notes, rests, and dynamic markings like "div." (divisi) and "unis." (unison).

S, A

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

hosts. Heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -

div. unis.

san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes

in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the

div.

high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

FIRST READING: Exodus 13:1-3a, 11-15

As Israel was delivered out of slavery in Egypt, the Lord commanded Moses and the people to set apart the firstborn son and dedicate him to the Lord's service. By offering a sacrifice of a firstborn male animal, Israel remembered all the Lord had done by redeeming them from oppression.

¹The Lord said to Moses, ²"Consecrate to me all the firstborn. Whatever is the first to open the womb among the people of Israel, both of man and of beast, is mine." ³Then Moses said to the people, ¹¹"When the Lord brings you into the land of the Canaanites, as he swore to you and your fathers, and shall give it to you, ¹²you shall set apart to the Lord all that first opens the womb. All the firstborn of your animals that are males shall be the Lord's. ¹³Every

firstborn of a donkey you shall redeem with a lamb, or if you will not redeem it you shall break its neck. Every firstborn of man among your sons you shall redeem. ¹⁴And when in time to come your son asks you, ‘What does this mean?’ you shall say to him, ‘By a strong hand the Lord brought us out of Egypt, from the house of slavery. ¹⁵For when Pharaoh stubbornly refused to let us go, the Lord killed all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both the firstborn of man and the firstborn of animals. Therefore I sacrifice to the Lord all the males that first open the womb, but all the firstborn of my sons I redeem.’

R: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 111

The psalmist sang joyfully of the Lord's faithfulness. The Lord forever remembers his promises to those who fear him. The beginning of wisdom is trust and reverence in the Lord.

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: Colossians 3:12-17

St. Paul urged the Colossians to “put on” (clothe themselves with) the virtues of the Christian life: compassion, kindness, meekness and patience. They were called to practice forgiveness among each other, but most of all to love one another and foster true harmony within the community of faith.

¹²Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, ¹³bearing with one another and, if one

has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. ¹⁷And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

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 OF THE DAY: Away in a Manger.....RECLAIM No. 110

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

SENDING HYMN: Good Christian Friends, Rejoice *(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.

Thank-you for your **tithes and offerings** to help further the mission of Resurrection Lutheran Church. An offering plate has been placed by the entrance doors into the Sanctuary for your convenience. Venmo users can scan the QR code found in the pew racks.

This morning, we welcome **Rev. Julie Smith** to preach and lead worship. Pastor Julie is on the national staff of Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ, and a member here at Resurrection Lutheran. Pastor Aaron and family will return from vacation later today.

Thank-you to those who donated toward the **poinsettia fund** so that our altar area could be so beautifully adorned this Christmas season. Those who wish may take a poinsettia home with them after worship this morning.

The first draft of our **new church directory** is here for us to proof. It is out in the narthex on the Welcome Center desk. Please stop to make sure your names and contact information are all correct.

A Pause in Programming: With Pastor Aaron returning from vacation, and the New Years holiday, there are no scheduled activities here at RLC this week so we can all catch our breath after a busy Christmas season.

Birthdays this week: Sharon Litynski (1st)

THOSE SERVING TODAY

Pastor: Rev. Julie Smith

Keyboardist: Nikki Basel

Reader: Mike Youngerberg

Ushers: Brad Matthes and Ron Brooks

Greeter: Don Peterson

COPYRIGHT Portions of today's service used by permission:

ESV Bible® (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®) Copyright © 2001

CCLI License: 11110219 | **CCLI Streaming License:** 21750457 | **One License:** A-7411

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice



- 1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
- 2 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
- 3 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;



give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
 now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
 now ye need not fear the grave; Je - sus Christ was born to save!



ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.
 He has o - pened heav - en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.
 Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.



Christ is born to - day!	Christ is born to - day!
Christ was born for this!	Christ was born for this!
Christ was born to save!	Christ was born to save!

Text: Medieval Latin carol; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866

Music: IN DULCI JUBILO, German carol, 14th cent.