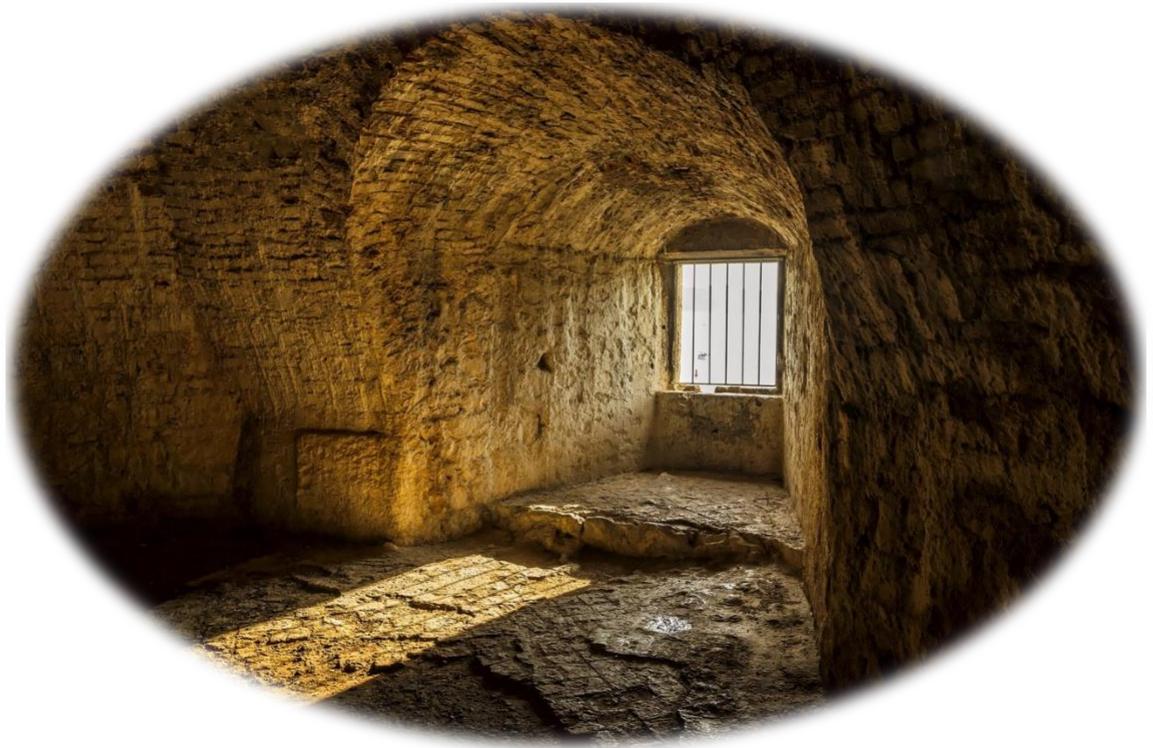


Resurrection Lutheran Church

New Life in the Living Word + For Now + Forever

1735 E Main Street - Mankato, MN | 507-345-4455 | www.resurrectionmankato.org



The Third Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 12, 2021

Rev. Aaron L. Deutsch, Pastor

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: Brothers and sisters in Christ, as we gather for worship, let us first call to mind our faults and failings. We come to God as one from whom no secrets are hidden, to ask for his forgiveness and peace. Trusting, therefore, in God's promise of forgiveness, let us confess our sins against God and one another:

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination

P: Eternal God,

C: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. Forgive all our offenses, known and unknown, things done and things we have failed to do. Cleanse us from the power of sin by your Holy and life-giving Word. By your grace, draw us near to you, our refuge and our strength; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

P: Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit given to us in Baptism. In the mercy of Almighty God, Christ died for us while we were still sinners. Hear the good news of the Gospel: in Christ's name, your sins are forgiven.

C: Amen!

↑ **GATHERING HYMN: Hark, the Glad Sound.....RECLAIM No. 92**

↓ ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING LITURGY

L: Having lit the candles of hope and peace, today we gather around the Advent wreath to light our third candle: the candle of joy. Shepherds heard the message of the angels. They rejoiced that a Savior had been born, and were the first to tell others the Good News.

C: Like the shepherds, we are called to be witnesses to Christ.

Lr: We pray that God would give us the boldness to speak. A word from the Book of Isaiah: "But be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating; for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy, and its people as a delight."

C: And from the Apostle Paul: "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit."

L: As we light our advent candle, we thank you Lord for the joy you give. As we prepare for Christmas time, light of the world, shine on us. In the midst of sorrow bring joy to our hearts. To all the people who don't know you, light of the world, shine through us.

C: In this world of pain and darkness, help us to find joy in serving you. In our service here today, light of the world, light the way. Three candles shine as God’s promise draws near, beckoning us to be a living witness of good news and great joy. In joy, we turn our eyes to this third flame, the flame of the shepherds.

L: Let us pray...

All: We joyfully praise you, O Lord, for the fulfillment of your promise of a Savior and what that means in our lives. Thank you for the gift of salvation through the birth of your son, Jesus. Create us anew as we wait, and help us to see your glory as you fill our lives with your living Spirit. Amen.

L: As the first, second and third candles are lit, please join in singing our Advent Verse:

(Tune: Angels, from the Realms of Glory)

**Now it’s time to light the candle, In God’s name we will rejoice.
Bells and organ play together, We will shout in one loud voice!
Light will overcome the darkness: Sing the joy the Christ Child brings.**

FIRST READING: *Zephaniah 3:14–20 (ESV)*

¹⁴Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! ¹⁵The Lord has taken away the judgments against you; he has cleared away your enemies. The King of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall never again fear evil. ¹⁶On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: “Fear not, O Zion; let not your hands grow weak. ¹⁷The Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing. ¹⁸I will gather those of you who mourn for the festival, so that you will no longer suffer reproach. ¹⁹Behold, at that time I will deal with all your oppressors. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. ²⁰At that time I will bring you in, at the time when I gather you together; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes,” says the Lord.

R: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

RESPONSIVE READING: *Psalms 85:1-13 (ESV)*

R: Lord, you were favorable to your land; you restored the fortunes of Jacob.

C: You forgave the iniquity of your people; you covered all their sin.

R: You withdrew all your wrath; you turned from your hot anger.

C: Restore us again, O God of our salvation, and put away your indignation toward us!

R: Will you be angry with us forever? Will you prolong your anger to all generations?

C: Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you?

R: Show us your steadfast love, O Lord, and grant us your salvation.

C: Let me hear what God the Lord will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints; but let them not turn back to folly.

R: Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him, that glory may dwell in our land.

C: Steadfast love and faithfulness meet; righteousness and peace kiss each other.

R: Faithfulness springs up from the ground, and righteousness looks down from the sky.

C: Yes, the Lord will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase.

R: Righteousness will go before him and make his footsteps a way.

R: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

SECOND READING: **Philippians 4:4-7 (ESV)**

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. ⁵Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; ⁶do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

R: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

↑ THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Hal-le - lu! Hal - le - lu - ia! Give praise to the Lord for the
bless - ings of heav - en in God's ho - ly Word. For the
words of for - give - ness, the words that en - dure, (hal - le -
lu! hal - le - lu - jah!) give praise to the Lord.

GOSPEL READING: Luke 7:18–28 (ESV)

P: The Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke, the 7th Chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord!

¹⁸The disciples of John reported all these things to him. And John, ¹⁹calling two of his disciples to him, sent them to the Lord, saying, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?” ²⁰And when the men had come to him, they said, “John the Baptist has sent us to you, saying, ‘Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?’” ²¹In that hour he healed many people of diseases and plagues and evil spirits, and on many who were blind he bestowed sight. ²²And he answered them, “Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them. ²³And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.” ²⁴When John's messengers had gone, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? ²⁵What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who are dressed in splendid clothing and live in luxury are in kings' courts. ²⁶What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ²⁷This is he of whom it is written, “Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.’” ²⁸I tell you, among those born of women none is greater than John. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.”

P: This is the Gospel of our Lord!

C: Praise to you, O Christ!

SERMON

↓ **HYMN OF THE DAY: When Peace Like a River (vss. 1,3, and 4).....RECLAIM No. 224**

OFFERING and OFFERING RESPONSE

As ushers bring forward the offering, please stand to sing the Doxology:

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him all creatures here below.

Praise Him above ye heav'nly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen

↑ **THE APOSTLES' CREED**

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*. Please 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: In the Bleak Midwinter.....RECLAIM No. 124**

DISMISSAL

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

C: Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

THIS WEEK AT RESURRECTION LUTHERAN

Sunday	Dec. 12	9:30am	Worship
		10:30am	Fellowship/Congregational Care Team Mtg.
Monday	Dec. 13	10:00am	Morning Prayer
Tuesday	Dec. 14	10:30am	Dementia Caregivers Support Group
		6:30pm	Church Council Meeting
Wednesday	Dec. 15	Noon	Lectionary Lunch
		6:15pm	Soup Supper
		7:00pm	Midweek Advent Worship
Thursday	Dec. 16	8:00am	Men's Bible Study
Sunday	Dec. 19	9:30am	Worship
		10:30am	Fellowship

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to Worship! Resurrection Lutheran Church is a Christ-centered and cross-focused member congregation of Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ.

Please remember the following in your prayers: Delores Fast, Marilyn Larson, Paul & Donna Bjur, Warren Beaty, Ted Glaser, Carol Volness, and Lee Young. Please also remember our **homebound members** and those living in **assisted living facilities:** Lone Benshoof, Deb Bjur, Dorothy Enfield, Arlene Harlow, Polly Marshall, and Betty Purrington.

Additional **readers** are needed during worship in the season of Advent to lead the Advent candle liturgy and light the Advent wreath. A sign-up sheet can be found in the narthex. Readings can be done by an individual or a pair.

Volunteers Needed: A variety of people are needed to work behind the scenes before and during worship to make Sunday mornings happen. Are you interested in greeting, reading, or assisting with the Lord's Supper? A sign-up sheet for next month's Sunday morning assistants can be found in the narthex.

Resurrection Lutheran Church is forming a **Congregational Care Team**. Congregational Care Ministers will be trained to carry out the Church's mission of carrying the burdens of our neighbors and equipped to walk alongside members of our congregation that feel alone or hurting. Join us for an informational meeting during the coffee hour after this morning. We will meet in the fireside room.

Would you like to help contribute to the beauty of the Church Sanctuary this Christmas season by sponsoring a **poinsettia plant**? Fill out the order form in the December newsletter and drop it off, along with your donation, to Vicki in the Church office.

Join us for **Christmas Eve Candlelight** worship at 5:30pm on Friday, December 24th. The Sacrament of the Altar will be celebrated.

THOSE SERVING TODAY

Pastor: Rev. Aaron L. Deutsch

Reader: Doug Mayer

Greeters: Victor and Helen Kurth

Ministers: Every member of Resurrection Lutheran

Keyboardist: Nikki Basel

Ushers: Daryl and Rita Schoemaker

Tech Team: Mike and Vicki Youngerberg

CONTACT OUR PASTOR

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