

# Resurrection Lutheran Church

1735 East Main Street – Mankato, MN 56001

+ *New Life in the Living Word* +



## **The Third Sunday of Advent**

**Sunday, December 14, 2025 | 9:30am**

Jesus lifted up the work and character of John the Baptist, of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said that one would come to prepare the way of the Lord. With the promises of a desert in full bloom, the blind receiving sight, and the lame walking, the exhortation to be patient and persevere until the coming of the Lord's Messiah gives us hope and courage as we wait for Christ's return.

## **Welcome and Announcements**

*Please sign the welcome pad at the end of your pew*

## **Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

R: Today is the third Sunday of Advent and on this day we light the third candle in our Advent wreath: the Candle of Joy. Israel rejoiced when she was freed from exile and led back to Zion.

**C: Mary rejoiced at the news that she would carry Jesus in her womb. We rejoice because the Father has sent us his Son to deliver and reconcile us to him.**

*The candles of hope, peace and joy are lit*

R: Let us pray. Holy Trinity, you are the source, cause, and object of our joy. Continue to stir up in us such joyful praise for your name and glory that we cannot keep silent. May our joy compel us to proclaim your mighty works and saving acts to the whole world that they might know your joy also. Amen.

## **Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus**

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## **Confession and Forgiveness of Sin**

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

P: Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord his God.

**C: The Lord sets the prisoners free; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind.**

*a time of reflection and self-examination is kept*

P: Almighty God and Father,

**C: we confess, as your people, our sinful human nature and the thoughts, words, and actions that are evil in your sight. We need your rescue. We need your righteousness. We need a redeemer. Mercifully draw near to us, O Lord. For the sake of Jesus Christ and his cross, rescue us from our troubles and cover our sin with true righteousness. Redeem our lives, that our days and deeds would be directed in your peace. Amen.**

P: Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for you, and for his sake forgives you all your sins. In the name of Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh, and by his authority alone, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

## **Hymn of Praise**

*A song of thanksgiving for the forgiveness we have in Jesus Christ*

**Glory be to God in heaven, Peace on earth, good will and grace;**

**We rejoice and sing thanksgiving, Hearts uplifted, songs of praise!**

**Lord, we bless You, Lord, we thank You, God Almighty, strong and true;**

**Lamb of God, our sin You carry, Grant us peace, our hearts renew.**

You alone, O Christ, are holy, You alone the Lord Most High,  
With the Spirit ever reigning, In the Father's glory nigh.  
Now we sing our adoration, Praise resounds from shore to shore;  
Glory, honor, power, blessing Be to God forevermore!

## **Prayer of the Day**

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray:

C: Gracious God, the Alpha and Omega, our beginning and our end, may your Spirit kindle in us patience and strength and endurance in the face of suffering, as well as love and mercy toward our neighbors that reflects your own. We pray in Jesus' name, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## **Children's Sermon**

### **First Reading | Isaiah 35:1-10**

Pew Bible Pg. 690

*When the Lord comes to save his people, even the earth will be glad. The desert will bloom and flower; the dry land shall sing its praises to the Lord. The blind shall see, the lame shall leap and the mute will sing for joy as salvation comes to God's people, who will be brought back to Zion.*

### **Responsive Reading | Psalm 146**

*There is only one who can save, only one in whom we can trust. This one, the Lord God Almighty, is the same one who made heaven and earth. He sets the prisoners free and opens the eyes of the blind. He upholds the orphan and widow and will reign forever and ever.*

R: Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul!

C: I will praise the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

R: Put not your trust in princes, in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation.

C: When his breath departs, he returns to the earth; on that very day his plans perish.

R: Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord his God,

C: who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, who keeps faith forever;

R: who executes justice for the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry. The Lord sets the prisoners free;

C: the Lord opens the eyes of the blind. The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous.

R: The Lord watches over the sojourners; he upholds the widow and the fatherless, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

C: The Lord will reign forever, your God, O Zion, to all generations. Praise the Lord!

## **Second Reading | James 5:7-11**

Pew Bible Pg. 1169

*Blessed are those who remain steadfast in the face of suffering. Be patient and long-suffering, for the Lord is merciful and compassionate.*

R: Word of God; Word of life.

C: Thanks be to God!

## **Gospel Acclamation**

Thy word is a lamp upon my feet and a light unto my path. *(Repeat)*

## **Gospel Reading | Matthew 11:2-11**

Pew Bible Pg. 943

P: The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew, the 11<sup>th</sup> Chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord!

*the Gospel text is read*

P: This is the Gospel of our Lord!

C: Praise to you, O Christ!

## **Sermon**

### **In the Bleak Midwinter**

Reclaim No. 124

## **Offering Presentation**

We give thee but thine own, whate'er the gift may be;  
All that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.

May we thy bounties thus as stewards true receive  
And gladly, as thou blestest us, to thee our first fruits give.

## **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."*

## **The 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**

## **Once in Royal David's City**

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## **Dismissal**

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

C: Thanks be to God!

# Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1744

MUSIC: Rowland H. Prichard, 1830; harm. *The English Hymnal*

HYFRYDOL

87.87 D

1. Come, Thou long - ex - pect - ed Je - sus, born to set Thy  
2. Born Thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and

peo - ple free; from our fears and sins re - lease us,  
yet a King, born to reign in us for - ev - er,

let us find our rest in Thee. Is - rael's strength and con - so -  
now Thy gra - cious king - dom bring. By Thine own e - ter - nal

la - tion, hope of all the earth Thou art; dear de - sire of  
Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone; by Thine all suf -

ev - 'ry na - tion, joy raise of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.  
fi - cient mer - it, raise us to Thy glo - rious throne.

# Once in Royal David's City



1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly cat - tle shed,  
2 He came down to earth from heav - en who is God and Lord of all,  
3 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re - deem - ing love;  
4 Not in that poor low - ly sta - ble, with the ox - en stand - ing by,



where a moth - er laid her ba - by in a man - ger for his bed;  
and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall;  
for that child so dear and gen - tle is our Lord in heav'n a - bove;  
we shall see him; but in heav - en, set at God's right hand on high;



Mar - y was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle child,  
with the poor and meek and low - ly, lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly,  
and he leads his chil - dren on to the place where he is gone,  
there his chil - dren gath - er round, bright like stars, with glo - ry crowned.

Text: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818–1895  
Music: IRBY, Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805–1876

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# Announcements

**Welcome to Worship!** Resurrection Lutheran Church is a Christ-centered and cross-focused member congregation of Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ and the Augustana District, LCMC. To learn more about our association of churches, please visit [www.lcmc.net](http://www.lcmc.net).

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.

Are you interested in serving on the **usher team** in 2026? We are in need of a few more friendly faces to greet worship attendees at the door and hand out bulletins. See Brad Matthes for more details or to volunteer.

Our final **midweek Advent worship services** will be held this Wednesday. A soup supper will be served in the fellowship hall at 6:15pm, followed by a brief worship service at 7:00pm.

Resurrection Lutheran will host our annual **Christmas Eve worship service** of candles and carols on Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm. Oh, come let us adore the Christ child of Bethlehem, born to save us from our sin. Invite a friend or neighbor to join us.

**Anniversaries this week:** Ross and Ruth Heilman (18<sup>th</sup>)

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## Those Serving Today

**Pastor:** Rev. Aaron L. Deutsch

**Keyboardist:** Nikki Basel

**Reader:** Rev. Julie Smith

**Ushers:** Brad Matthes and Kevin Leffel

**Greeters:** Pat and Karen McGregor

**Tech Team:** Doug Krahmer, Mike Youngerberg, Vicki Youngerberg and Nancy Heinze

## This Week at Resurrection Lutheran

Sunday	December 14	9:30am	Worship
		10:30am	Fellowship/Sunday School
Monday	December 15	10:00am	Morning Prayer
Wednesday	December 17	Noon	Lectionary Bible Study
		1:00pm	Women's Bible Study
		5:30pm	Choir Rehearsal
		6:15pm	Midweek Advent Soup and Worship
Thursday	December 18	9:00am	Men's Bible Study
Sunday	December 21	9:30am	Worship
		10:30am	Church Council
		10:30am	Fellowship/Sunday School