



RESURRECTION LUTHERAN CHURCH, LCMC

NEW LIFE + FOR NOW + FOREVER   

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

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT | Sunday, December 10, 2023

PRELUDE

WELCOME *and* ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

L: The light shines in the darkness.

C: **And the darkness cannot overcome it.**

L: In a world where many experience violence and discord, today we light a candle of peace.

The first and second Advent candles are lit

L: Behold, you who are walking in the shadows, see the light. We yearn for hope in hopeless situations; restore us again, O God of our salvation.

C: **O God, give us your peace.**

L: We prepare for your coming. Breathe life in our weary bones, that we may rejoice in you.

C: **O God, give us your peace.**

L: Amidst everything going wrong we turn to you. Show us your steadfast love.

C: **O God, give us your peace.**

L: Lord, let us hear your gracious words to us in every time and place.

C: **O God, give us your peace.**

L: Let us pray. Lord, our God, we praise you for your Son, Jesus Christ. He is Emmanuel, the peace for 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 stand to join in singing our opening hymn "Hark, the Glad Sound."

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

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS OF SIN

P: The prophet Daniel declares: "To the Lord our God belongs mercy and forgiveness, for we have rebelled against him and have not obeyed the voice of the Lord our God by walking

in his ways, which he set before us by the prophets." And yet, in Christ, all obstacles between us and God have been removed. If death no longer stands in our way, our sin does not either. Let us confess our sins, that they may be washed away by God's mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination

P: God of the promise,

C: We confess that we have turned from you, knowingly and unknowingly. We have wandered from your will and your ways. We have strayed from your love for all people. Turn us back to you, O God. Give us new hearts and right spirits, that we may find what is pleasing to you and dwell in your house forever. Amen.

P: Hear the good news: by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God. The risen Christ is the Savior of all. God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. In the name of Jesus, the entirety of your sins are forgiven!

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. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a 4/4 time signature. 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.* (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. san - na in the high - est. *unis.* 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: Isaiah 40:1-11

The Lord called to the prophet to comfort his people who were to be exiled far from home. Though they strayed from the Lord's fold and angered him greatly, God would not forsake them or leave them without a source of comfort and hope.

¹Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. ²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. ³A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. ⁵And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken." ⁶A voice says, "Cry!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field. ⁷The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the Lord blows on it; surely the people are grass. ⁸The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever. ⁹Go on up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!" ¹⁰Behold, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. ¹¹He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.

R: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 85

The psalmist spoke about God's change of heart in regard to his adulterous and faithless people, proclaiming that God's faithfulness would prevail to save the people from their sins.

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: 2 Peter 3:8-14

Peter reminded believers that the end would certainly come, even though it seemed like forever since Christ was with them. To God a thousand years is just one day. Human time and God's time are two completely different things. Because of that, the faithful are not to fear - we will not be forsaken.

⁸But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. ⁹The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. ¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed. ¹¹Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, ¹²waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! ¹³But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. ¹⁴Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace.

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: Mark 1:1-8

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

C: Glory to you, O Lord!

¹The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. ²As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, "Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way, ³the voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'" ⁴John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷And he preached, saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

P: This is the Gospel of our Lord!

C: Praise to you, O Christ!

SERMON: John's Finger

HYMN OF THE DAY: Prepare the Royal Highway.....RECLAIM No. 102

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: Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus (*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!

CONTACT OUR PASTOR

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THOSE SERVING TODAY

Pastor: Rev. Aaron L. Deutsch

Keyboardist: Nikki Basel

Reader: Mike Youngerberg

Ushers: Brad Matthes and Kevin Leffel

Greeters: Don Peterson and Pastor Aaron

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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. Members and visitors are encouraged to sign the **friendship pad** at the end of your pew.

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 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.

Are you interested in sponsoring a **Christmas poinsettia** in honor or memory of someone you love? Donation forms can be found on the Welcome Center desk.

The choir is excited to lead us in a special service of **Scripture and song** next Sunday, December 17th during worship. Please make plans to join us!

Assembly of the WOW home bound **Christmas treat packages** will take place this Wednesday, December 13th at 4:00pm. Cookies for this event can be put in the kitchen refrigerator or left on a table in the far east dining room.

The **Portals of Prayer** devotionals have arrived! If you previously signed up to receive this publication, please stop in the narthex to pick yours up.

THIS WEEK AT RESURRECTION LUTHERAN

Sunday	December 10	9:30am	Worship
		10:30am	Fellowship
Monday	December 11	10:00am	Morning Prayer
Tuesday	December 12	6:30pm	Church Council
Wednesday	December 13	Noon	Lectionary Lunch
		4:00pm	WOW Treat Bag Packing
		5:30pm	Choir Rehearsal
		6:15pm	Soup Supper
		7:00pm	Midweek Advent Worship
Thursday	December 14	8:00am	Men's Bible Study
Sunday	December 17	9:30am	Worship
		10:30am	Fellowship

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

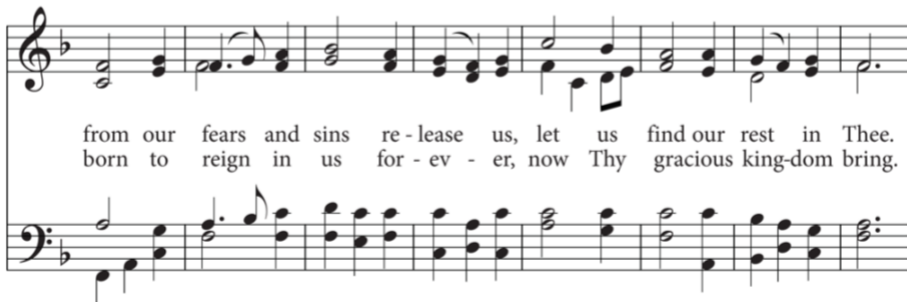
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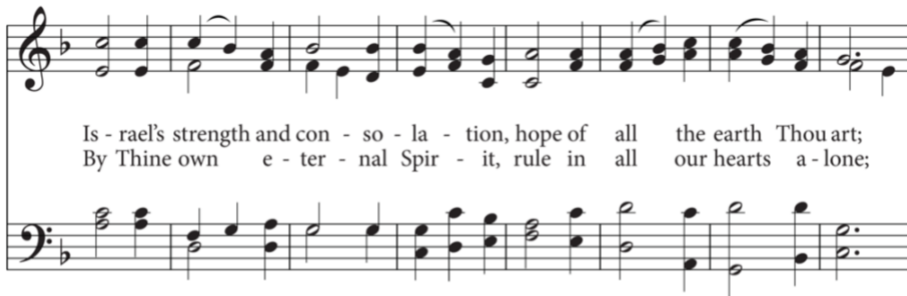
1. Come, Thou long - ex - spect - ed Je - sus, born to set Thy peo - ple free;
2. Born Thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and yet a King;



from our fears and sins re - lease us, let us find our rest in Thee.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now Thy gracious king - dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth Thou art;
By Thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it, rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear De - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.
by Thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it, raise us to Thy glo - rious throne.



WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1744

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MUSIC: Rowland H. Prichard, 1830; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906, alt.