



RESURRECTION LUTHERAN CHURCH, LCMC

NEW LIFE + FOR NOW + FOREVER   

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

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT | Sunday, December 24, 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 hatred and bitterness, today we light a candle of love.

All four Advent candles are lit

L: Behold, you who are walking in the shadows, see the light. For the wonders, Father of lights, you have done among us, we shout your name all day long.

C: O God, we sing your praise.

L: We sing about the abundant grace of your mercy shown to all generations!

C: O God, we sing your praise.

L: Our souls magnify you for the promise of joy and new life!

C: O God, we sing your praise.

L: We joyfully sing your praise for that gift of love that came down to earth on Christmas.

C: O God, we sing your praise.

L: Let us pray. Lord, our God, we praise you for your Son, Jesus Christ. He is Emmanuel, love come to us. 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 "What Child Is This."

GATHERING HYMN: What Child Is This.....RECLAIM No. 113

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS OF SIN

P: Blessed be the Holy One of Israel, the Word made flesh, the Power of the Most High – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

P: We give thanks and praise to our Heavenly Father for sending his one and only Son to share our humanity, 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.

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: a Savior is born for you, Christ the Lord. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, 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. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is simple and hymn-like. 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 dynamic markings such as *div.* (diviso) and *unis.* (unison). The final staff ends with a double bar line.

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: Micah 5:2-5a

From the smallest of the tribes of Israel will come forth a ruler. He will stand like a shepherd among his people. This was the message of the prophet Micah to a nation that had been battered and bruised by her enemies. One is coming who is filled with the strength of the Lord God of Israel.

²But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days. ³Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel. ⁴And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth. ⁵And he shall be their peace.

R: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 89:1-5

The Lord promised David that he would establish his descendants forever and put him on the throne. This promise was extended for generations with the culmination being realized in Jesus.

R: I will sing of the steadfast love of the Lord, forever; with my mouth
I will make known your faithfulness to all generations.

C: For I said, "Steadfast love will be built up forever; in the heavens
you will establish your faithfulness."

R: You have said, "I have made a covenant with my
chosen one; I have sworn to David my servant:

C: 'I will establish your offspring forever, and build your throne for all generations.'"

R: Let the heavens praise your wonders, O Lord, your faithfulness
in the assembly of the holy ones!

R: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

SECOND READING: Hebrews 10:5-10

The sacrifices that were made in the Jewish temple year after year were ineffective. They could not actually take away the sin of the people. Jesus came to establish a new order. He would be the one to fulfill God's will. The sacrifice of Christ's body changed everything for humanity.

⁵Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have you prepared for me; ⁶in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. ⁷Then I said, 'Behold, I have come to do your will, O God, as it is

written of me in the scroll of the book.”⁸When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law),⁹then he added, “Behold, I have come to do your will.” He does away with the first in order to establish the second.¹⁰And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

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 1:39-56

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

C: Glory to you, O Lord!

³⁹In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah,⁴⁰and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit,⁴²and she exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!⁴³And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.” ⁴⁶And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord,⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,⁴⁸for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;⁴⁹for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. ⁵⁰And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. ⁵¹He has shown strength

with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts; ⁵²he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate; ⁵³he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty. ⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, ⁵⁵as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever.” ⁵⁶And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home.

P: This is the Gospel of our Lord!

C: Praise to you, O Christ!

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: Mary Gladly Told Her Cousin (see back of the bulletin)

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 using the words of a Christmas Creed:

I believe in God the Father, Creator of all things, who sent his Son as my Savior.

I believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, announced by the angels, worshiped by Shepherds and Wisemen, who lived, suffered, died, and rose again, to free me from sin, death, and the power of Satan.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, who has brought me to faith in Christ and by whose continuous work in my heart I am ever led to lay before the feet of Christ my worship and my life; to live under him as my king, now and forever. 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: Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming.....RECLAIM No. 116

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. 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.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship will be held tonight 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.

Pastor Aaron will be **out of the office** this next week from Wednesday through Sunday traveling to see family in South Dakota. There will be no scheduled programming or Bible Studies for the remainder of the calendar year at Resurrection Lutheran. Pastor Julie Smith will be here next Sunday, December 31st to preach and lead worship.

Birthdays: Michal Clobes (27th)

CONTACT OUR PASTOR

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THOSE SERVING TODAY

Pastor: Rev. Aaron L. Deutsch

Keyboardist: Nikki Basel

Reader: Ruth Heilman

Ushers: Don Peterson and Doug Mayer

Greeters: Jerry and Joyce Roust

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Mary Gladly Told Her Cousin

Sung to the tune of "Once in Royal David's City"

Mary gladly told her cousin, "Praise the Lord! My spirit sings!"
Young and humble, she'd been chosen! God was surely changing things!
God of love, her words ring true As we sing her prayer to you:

"Now my soul is gladly singing At the greatness of the Lord.
I rejoice, for God is bringing His salvation to the world.
All who live will say I'm blest Even in my lowliness.

God is mighty, just and holy, And he's done great things for me.
Those who fear him know the mercy That God gives us endlessly.
Mighty ones are brought down low; Lowly ones find blessings flow.

God has filled the poor and hungry, And he's sent the rich away.
God is active here in hist'ry, In a real and wondrous way.
God has promised, and I'm blessed, For I know God's faithfulness."

