



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 22, 2024

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 "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly."

GATHERING HYMN: *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly* (page 7)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS OF SIN

P: Friends in Christ, our heavenly Father has called us to be His people, leading us to green pastures and still waters. Yet, there are times when we have wronged our fellow sheep and wandered from our Shepherd. But we are not abandoned. Trusting in the goodness of our God and the renewing power of the Holy Spirit within us, let us tell the whole truth about ourselves, confess our sins, and seek God's ceaseless mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination

P: Loving and forgiving God,

C: we confess that we are held captive by the power of sin and have gone astray. We have not welcomed the stranger and outsider. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not been Christ to one another. Restore us, O God. Wake us up and turn us from our sin. Renew us each day in the light of Christ. Amen.

P: People of God, hear this glad news: Jesus Christ has come so that you might have new and abundant life. In his name and by his authority alone, I forgive you all your sins. May you be strengthened in God's love, comforted by Christ's peace, and accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen! Thanks be to God!

CHILDREN'S SERMON

CHRISTMAS CAROL: O Little Town of Bethlehem (vs. 1 & 4)...RECLAIM No. 115

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 and lead them to salvation. This was the message of the prophet Micah to a nation that had been battered by her enemies. One is coming who is filled with the strength of the Lord God.

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!

SECOND READING: Hebrews 10:5-10

The sacrifices that were made in the Jewish temple year after year were ineffective against sin. The offering of bulls, goats, and other animals could not take away the sin of the people. Jesus came to establish a new order. 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. 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: How Can This Be?

HYMN OF THE DAY: Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming.....RECLAIM No. 116

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: What Child is This.....RECLAIM No. 113

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.

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

Join us for our **Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Service** this Tuesday, December 24th at 5:30pm. The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be celebrated as we draw near to friends and family to welcome the Christ child, who was born to die and save us from our sins.

Pastor Aaron will **be on vacation** this week from Thursday, December 26th – Sunday, December 29th visiting family in South Dakota for Christmas. Pastor Julie Smith will lead worship and preach next Sunday.

Today will be the **last day of Sunday School** for 2024. Classes will resume after the new year on Sunday, January 12, 2025.

Birthdays this week: Bruce Kraemer (today) and Michal Clobes (27th)

THOSE SERVING TODAY

Pastor: Rev. Aaron L. Deutsch

Keyboardist: Nikki Basel

Reader: Jim Lambert

Ushers: Daryl and Rita Schoemaker

Greeters: Jim Lambert & Carolyn Rewitzer

THIS WEEK AT RESURRECTION LUTHERAN

Sunday	December 22	9:30am	Worship
		10:30am	Sunday School/Fellowship
Monday	December 23	10:00am	Morning Prayer
Tuesday	December 24	5:30pm	Christmas Eve Worship
Sunday	December 29	9:30am	Worship
		10:30am	Fellowship

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly



1 In - fant ho - ly, in - fant low - ly, for his bed a cat - tle stall;
2 Flocks were sleep - ing, shep - herds keep - ing vig - il till the morn - ing new



ox - en low - ing, lit - tle know - ing Christ the child is Lord of all.
saw the glo - ry, heard the sto - ry, tid - ings of a gos - pel true.



Swift - ly wing - ing, an - gels sing - ing, bells are ring - ing, tid - ings bring - ing:
Thus re - joic - ing, free from sor - row, prais - es voic - ing, greet the mor - row:



Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!
Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

Text: Polish carol; tr. Edith M. G. Reed, 1885-1933, alt.
Music: W ZŁOBIE LĘŻY, Polish carol

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