



MERRY CHRISTMAS



Resurrection Lutheran Church

To Live & Share the Love of Christ

Pastor Melissa Pagel

Tuesday, December 24th, 2024. *Christmas Eve*

*(Congregational responses are printed in **Bold** type.)*

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

GATHERING

Announcements

Gathering Hymn O Come All Ye Faithful ELW 283

Blessed be God,
the one who forms us,
✝ Jesus who bears the cross,
the Spirit who makes our joy complete.
Amen.

Warm the Time of Winter Confession & Kyrie

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,
alive in the world, reviving creation, arriving soon. **Amen.**

Call to Confession

Christmas Eve is one of the most joyful and hopeful days of the year. The candles are lit!
The children are antsy with anticipation.
The music is joyful.
It is a good night!

But even here, on this good night, we know that we are works in progress. Even here, on this good night, we know that we could love more deeply.

So join me in the prayer of confession,

not because we have to,

but because naming that truth out loud allows us to receive God's grace.

And God's grace only makes a good night better.

So let us pray:

Sing vs. 1 & 2

1. When the wind of win-ter blows, bring-ing times of
2. When we shiv-er in des-pair, when the chill of
3. When in days of fall-en snow, change con-founds or

sol - i - tude, fill the si - lent, ic - y night;
death comes near, hold us, Spir - it, calm our fear,
love burns low, from the ash - es may there rise

be our hearts' com - pas - sion.
while the eve - ning deep - ens.
phoe - nix of our grow - ing.

Ho-ly light, warm our night; warm the time of win-ter.

Ho-ly light, warm our night; warm the time of win-ter.

Prayer of Confession

Loving Christ,

When the shepherds heard that you were born, they dropped their things and ran.

They trusted the angels' invitation.

They believed that your love existed for them. We wish that we were more like that.

Instead, somewhere between the angels' song and the manger, we tend to lose our way.

We doubt ourselves.

We doubt the invitation.

We doubt that love could know our names.

Remind us that your love is personal and specific. Remind us that the good news of this day is for us. With hope we sing, we pray, and we run.

Amen.

Sing verse 3

Words of Forgiveness

Family of faith, the angels are singing: unto *you* a child is born.

It is a love that is personal. It is a love that knows your name.

So hear and believe the good news of the Gospel:

You are seen. You are claimed. You are forgiven. You are loved.

Glory to God in the highest heaven!

Glory to God here and now.

Alleluia! Amen.

Priest/Cantor

1. You

Verses

9

Em D/E C/E D/E

came as a child of Beth - le - hem to
 (2.) come as the Son of Mar - y, Em-
 (3.) come in glo - ry as God's own Son, with sal-

13

Em D/E A

gath - er us in - to the peace of your king - dom.
 man - u - el, God with us.
 va - tion for all your peo - ple.

17 *f* *Cantor*
 Ky - ri - e, Ky - ri - e, Ky - ri - e, e - le - i - son.
 Chr - ste, Chr - ste, Chr - ste, e - le - i - son.
 Ky - ri - e, Ky - ri - e, Ky - ri - e, e - le - i - son.

21 *All*
 Ky - ri - e, Ky - ri - e, Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.
 Chr - ste, Chr - ste, Chr - ste e - le - i - son.
 Ky - ri - e, Ky - ri - e, Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.

25 1., 2. 3. *C Instrument*
 — 2. You — — — — —
 — 3. You will — — — — —
 Priest: (spoken) May almighty God have mercy on us,

Almighty God has had mercy upon us, has forgiven us our sins, and has brought us to everlasting life. **Amen**

Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray,

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace—

We are leaning forward. We are craning our necks, straining to hear a murmur of the angels' song, or an echo of a gloria.

We always long for you, but on this night, on this holy Christmas Eve, we long for you to feel as close as possible.

So as we prepare to hear this ancient story once again, we ask that you would awaken something new in us. Awaken in us a fire for your Word.

Awaken in us proof of your proximity.

Awaken in us your love, which is bigger than the sky, and as close as our very breath.

We are listening.

We give thanks. **Amen.**

Candle Lighting:

In a weary and worn world, how do we begin again?

Where do we start?

Let us begin with hope. Let us begin with peace. Let us begin with joy. Let us begin with love.

Yes, let us begin with love, for surely love knows your name.

Today, in addition to the candles of hope, peace, joy, and love, we light the Christ Candle. For surely God is in this place.

Surely the Spirit is near. Surely love knows our name.

May we rest in that good news. Unto us a child is born.

A light shines in the darkness and the darkness cannot overcome it.

Glory to God in the highest heaven! Amen.

WORD

Reading: Isaiah 9:6

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.

And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Gospel: Luke 2:1-20

The Holy gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you O Lord.**

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴ Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵ He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place in the guest room. ^[a]

⁸ Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, ^[b] the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, ^[c] praising God and saying, ¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” ^[d]

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them, ¹⁹ and Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told them.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you O Christ.**

Sermon

Pastor Melissa Pagel

Affirmation of Faith

**We believe that on a night like this one,
a baby was born and placed in a manger.**

**We believe that baby was God's love in the flesh,
who grew up to love the outcast and change the world. We believe
that Jesus' love was so big and so personal that the world will never
be the same.**

**So despite the mystery of this holy night, we believe that a star shone,
that the shepherds ran, that the angels sang, and that love was born.**

**Yes, we believe it when the prophets say that unto you, unto *us*, a
savior is born.**

Glory to God in the highest heaven!

We believe.

Prayers of the People

Mighty One, we magnify your glory. You have done great things for us,
showing mercy to your people from generation to generation. Hear the
prayers of your people in this time and place.

Show your strength and scatter the proud . . .

Deliver us from the evil powers of sickness, sorrow, suffering,
and sin, so that all may know fullness of life in you.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bring down the powerful and lift up the lowly . . .

Humble the leaders of nations

and give justice to the oppressed,

so that all may live in dignity and peace.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Fill the hungry with good things and empty the pockets of the rich . . .

Teach us to share our gifts and reorder our priorities,

so that all may seek the common good.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Mighty One, we give thanks for your grace.
As you have helped your people
from generation to generation,
remember your mercy here and now.
This we pray through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Peace

Glory to God in the highest,
And peace to God's people on earth.

*Please share a sign of the Lord's peace with those around you. Please
be seated.*

Choir Anthem Holy Night, Silent Night Schram

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

MEAL

Offering

Offering Prayer

Let us pray, Creator God,
**you made the whole world, even the farthest stars,
and you draw near to feed us. We praise you for these gifts of bread
and wine. Strengthen us with this food that we may live in
expectation for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your heart.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.
It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Preface

**It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...
we praise your name and join in their unending hymn:**

Holy, Holy

ELW 153

Words of Institution

In the night he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus...
Do this in remembrance of me,

The Lord's Prayer

With hope in our hearts, we unite our voices once more to pray the words
your son taught us.

**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.**

Communion Hymn O Little Town of Bethlehem ELW 279

Post Communion Prayer

Nourishing God,
Sometimes we tell ourselves that too much has taken place to begin
again.

We think the world is too far gone.

We think we have made too many mistakes.

We tell ourselves that we couldn't possibly begin again.

But then we come to this Table and we get a glimpse of your kingdom.
We come to this Table and all are welcomed, all are seen, all are fed.
And just like that, we have hope.
Just like that, we begin again.
Thank you for the gift of this fresh start. Thank you for planting hope
deep in our bones. Thank you for meeting us in ordinary bread and juice
to remind us that it's never too late to build your kingdom here. We are
grateful. We are so grateful. **Amen.**

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

SENDING

Candlelight Service

(Please tip unlit candles toward the one that is lit. Continue passing the light until all candles are lit. Once all candles are lit, we will begin singing. You may carefully raise your candle during the 3rd verse)

Silent Night, Holy Night!

Stille Nacht, Heilige Nacht!



Stil - le Nacht, hei - li - ge Nacht! Al - les schläft,
 1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,



ein - sam wacht nur das trau - te, hoch - hei - li - ge Paar.
 all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.
 at the sight; glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,
 love's pure light ra - diant beams from your ho - ly face,



Hold - er Kna - be im lok - ki - gen Haar, schlaf in himm - li - scher
 Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly
 heav'n - ly hosts . . . sing, al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is
 with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at your



Ruh, schlaf in himm - li - scher Ruh.
 peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
 birth, Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.

Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792–1849; tr. John F. Young, 1820–1885

Music: STILLE NACHT, Franz Gruber, 1787–1863

Blessing

As you leave this place,
may you have the wisdom to lean on one other.
May you have the courage to hold onto hope,
the compassion to do the good that is yours to do,
and the confidence to trust that God sees you as a blessing.
For in a world full of dead ends,
Advent invites us to begin again.
So start here. Start now. Start with love and begin again.

(Extinguish the candles)

Sending Song Go Tell it on the Mountain ELW 290

Dismissal

Go in peace to live and share the love of Christ.
Thanks be to God.



Thank you for the altar poinsettias. They look so beautiful.

Jodi & John Koch remembering Loved Ones
Jean Halloran—remembering Family & Friends
Jim & Judy Gatske remembering Our parents

Jeff & Carol Borremans remembering Family and Friends
Kim & Carig Sterk remembering Kuivinen, Oger, Rozman & Sterk Families
Sandy Krakow remembering Russ Krakow(Dad)
Heidi Jirik remembering Don & Janice Peterson
Ernie & Linda remembering Family and Friends
Jan Hansen remembering Family and Friends
Eleanor Vogl remembering Olson, Vogl Family
Melissa Smith remembering Pam Schubert & Kay Westhund

Warming of the Heart -Resurrection and 8 other churches have come together to provide a safe space for the homeless on Sundays. Resurrection has agreed to support the primary Churches on 1/19/25 & 2/16 from 12:30pm-5:00pm. We Need 4 volunteers for each day. Signup sheets are in the narthex.

***Bible Study begins again Jan 12th at 8:00am**

***Office hours this week Monday & Thursday 9:00am-1:00pm.
Closed Dec 24th & Dec 25th.**

December 24th

Usher: Gary McFarlane
Communion Deacon:
Counters: Larry Nelson/Debbie LaPlante
Lector: John Koch
Fellowship: No One Assigned
Altar Guild: Carol

December 29th

Usher: Gary McFarlane
Communion Deacon: Jim Gatske
Counters: Larry Nelson/ Debbie LaPlante

Lector: Jim Gatske
Fellowship:
Altar Guild: Linda



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