



# **Resurrection Lutheran Church**

*To Live & Share the Love of Christ*

Pastor Melissa Pagel

**Sunday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025.    *Third Sunday of Lent***  
*(Congregational responses are printed in **Bold** type.)*

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## ***To Live & Share the Love of Christ***

Welcome to Resurrection Lutheran Church where different people come together for the shared purpose of worshiping God and encouraging each other through the inclusive love of Jesus. Whether you are our guest, looking for a church home, or already a member, we want you to feel welcomed by our congregation and inspired by our worship service.

### **Contact Us**

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**Email:** [rlutheranchurch1024@gmail.com](mailto:rlutheranchurch1024@gmail.com)

**Website:** [rlutherangb.com](http://rlutherangb.com)

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# Introduction



## GATHERING

### Announcements

*Gathering Hymn*

*For the Fruit of All Creation*

*ELW 679*

### Call to worship

Worship is a place to rest.

**We breathe deeply here.**

We still our aching bones.

**We sit in the quiet.**

We surround ourselves with music.

**Worship is a place to rest.**

Worship is a place to grow.

**We listen for God's word.**

We invite it to challenge us.

**We lean in with curiosity.**

We ask questions.

**Worship is a place to grow.**

So come into this space.

Come rest and grow here.

**For where two or more are gathered, God is always there.**

Let us worship our gracious God.

## **Confession and Forgiveness**

Friends, we carve out time for confession in worship because it is not enough to hear about

God's grace once. We need that reminder again, and again, and again.

So join me in speaking the truth of our lives and join me in receiving God's grace again.

Holy God,

There are days when we fail to rest.

**We stretch ourselves too thin. We say "yes" to every invitation. We run a million miles a minute. We ignore your command to rest.**

There are also days when we fail to act.

**We wait for someone else. We take the easy road. We find excuses and justify our inaction.**

God, forgive our imbalance.

**Remind us that birds rest, and they also fly.**

**Show us how to do the same. Amen.**

Family of faith, I have good news! Our God does not keep score. Our God does not hold grudges. Our God does not assume the worst about us. No, our God offers grace, and endless second chances, and boundless love. So join me in proclaiming the good news of the gospel: **God's grace is deeper than the ocean. God's love is wider than the sky. We are seen. We are claimed. We are forgiven. May this realization change and inspire us.**

**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## **Prayer of the Day**

Creator God,

**Your Word is like soil, something we can root ourselves in. Your Word is like the sun, big enough to touch everything with its warmth.**

**And your Word is like a gardener, a love that prunes and encourages, waters and delights, seeds and tends. So as we turn to your text today, warm our**

**bones, tend to our broken pieces, and show us how to grow. With hope we pray, Amen.**

*Please rise in body or in spirit.*

***Lenten Acclamation***

***p. 205 (bottom)***

## **Word**

### **Isaiah 55:1-9**

Hear, everyone who thirsts; come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread and your earnings for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples.

Now you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you. Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake their way and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.

For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

**Word of God, Word of Life. Thanks be to God.**

The Holy Gospel according to Luke 13:6-9

### **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the man working the vineyard, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good, but if not, you can cut it down.' "

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

*Please be seated.*

Sermon

Pastor Melissa Pagel

*Please rise in body or in spirit.*

***Hymn of the Day***

***Blessed Assurance***

***ELW 638***

Affirmation of faith

**We believe in a God who loves and tends to us like a gardener. We believe that like the trees, some seasons are for growth, and some seasons are for rest. Some days require pruning, and some require planting.**

**Fortunately, we believe that our green-thumbbed God sees us and cultivates the sweetest fruit. So may we plant roots, reach for the sky, grow where we can, and rest when we need, for we believe there is holiness in the pruning and in the planting.**

**And we do not grow alone. Thanks be to God, Amen.**

### **Prayers of the People**

Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

***A brief silence.***

We pray for the church, called to be a witness to all peoples. Grant humility and wisdom to bishops, pastors, deacons, elders, councils, and congregations, that they may call upon you in making decisions. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for the earth, called to provide abundantly. Teach your people the goodness of your generosity, that in sharing what we have been given, all life may flourish on the planet that is our shared home. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for the nations called to protect their inhabitants and collaborate in the work of justice and peace. Forge bonds of compassion and mutual care across human borders and boundaries, that all the world may have enough to live. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for those in need, called to receive your compassion. Comfort those whose lives have been disrupted through natural disasters and human conflict. Aid communities in coming together to mourn, heal, and rebuild. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for this assembly, called to welcome its neighbors to the table of your grace. Bless food pantries, community gardens and kitchens, clean water projects, and all ministries that address human hunger and thirst. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

We give thanks for the faithful lives of those who proclaimed your gospel in times of challenge and strife, and for all those whose lives of love and service have ended. May their witness inspire our own. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life. **Amen.**

### **Peace**

The peace of God be with you always. **And also with you.**

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

### **Offering & Noisy Offering**

*Choir Anthem      I Love You Lord*

*Klein arr. Rouse*

### **Offering Prayer**

**MEAL**

### **Words of Institution**

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

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

On the night in which he was betrayed

Which is to say, on the night before he was sentenced to death by those who didn't like him challenging their power and disturbing their status quo,  
Which is to say, on the night before he was subjected to an unjust trial, torture and humiliation, On that night, with the heart of God on full display, as feet were washed, a meal was shared and encouragement to carry on ministry was given, on that night, Jesus took bread and gave thanks. He broke it and shared it among them saying:

**Take, eat; this is my body given for you. Do this and remember me.**

In the same way after supper, in the same way, which is to say, with those same incredibly imperfect and fallible people there,

His closest friends, the ones who knew him the best, the ones who had watched him heal, heard him teach and yet would doubt, deny and betray him,

In the same way, among those same flawed and forgiven people, with their fear and confusion on full display,

In the same way, after supper, Jesus took the cup, and he gave thanks. He gave it to his friends, (his deeply loved, fully human friends), each of them in turn, saying:

**Drink. This cup is poured out for you and for all people. It is the promise of God. Drink it and remember me.**

We remember Jesus' death and resurrection, our hope and our life. We break the bread and share the one cup.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit let us pray as Jesus 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.**

*Lamb of God*

*pg.201*

### **Invitation to Communion**

The joy of the Lord is our strength. Come, eat this meal of gladness.

The body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen and keep you. God's grace, **Amen.**

### **Post Communion Prayer**

Nourishing God, at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink. Strengthen us for service and send us out to embody your good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ we pray, **Amen.**

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the World.*

## **SENDING**

*Please rise in body or in spirit.*

### **Benediction**

As you leave this place,  
may you find God in every messy middle.  
May you know that the world is bigger than two sides.  
May you trust that you are made in the image of God,  
and therefore, you contain multitudes.  
So may you move through this world with an open heart,  
with a curious mind, and with the confidence that you do not go alone. God is with  
you in the mountains, in the valleys, and everywhere in between.  
Almighty God,  
motherly, majestic, and mighty, ✠ bless you this day and always. **Amen.**

***Sending Hymn     Jesus Calls Us; O'er the Tumult     ELW 696***

### **Dismissal**

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

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### **This Week at a Glance**

Monday -Wednesday Office Hours 9:00am-1:00pm



Tuesday- 9:00 am Quilters  
Wednesday-5:00 pm Choir  
Thursday 5:30pm-7:30pm Food Pantry  
Sunday- Bible Study 8:00am Worship 9:30 am

## **Upcoming Events**

Noisy Offering today. Recipient: Outreach Family

\*The pantry is in particular need of: **canned soup, pasta sauce (preferably canned so the containers do not break in transit), Jelly, Cookies, and side dish packets.**

There are envelopes in the narthex for ordering **Easter Lilies or Tulips.**  
Please fill out and drop in the collection plate. **Final date to order is April 13<sup>th</sup>.**  
**Thank You.**

## **Lent Worship Schedule**

March 26<sup>th</sup> Worship 6:30pm **Bethel**  
April 2nd Worship 6:30- **Here**  
April 9<sup>th</sup> Worship 6:30pm- **Bethel**  
April 17<sup>th</sup> Maundy Thursday Worship 6:30pm **Here**  
April 18th Good Friday Worship 6:30pm **Here**  
April 20th Easter worship **Here**

## **Assisting us this week March 23<sup>rd</sup>**

Usher: Jim Gatske  
Communion Deacon: Christina Marcin  
Counters: John & Jodi Koch  
Lector: Carol Borremans  
Altar Guild: Sandy Krakow  
Fellowship: No one assigned

## **Assisting us March 30<sup>th</sup>**

Usher: Jim Gatske  
Communion Deacon: Carol Borremans  
Counters: John & Jodi Koch  
Lector: Bill Hartung  
Altar Guild: Sandy Krakow  
Fellowship: No one assigned

## **Church Council Members**

Council President: Carol Borremans

Vice President: John Koch

Secretary: Jodi Koch

Treasurer: Debbie LaPlante

Pastor: Melissa Pagel

Secretary: Jean Kaster

Musician: Greg Pagel

Choir Director: Beth Krepline

Financial Secretary: Chris Peterson

## **Committees**

Resource & Finance: John Koch

Education: Brent Phare

Worship & Church Music: Carol Borremans

Food Pantry: Debbie LaPlante

Celebration: Christina Marcin

Church Support & Property: Kevin Wood

Outreach: Sandy Krakow

Wiener Wednesday: Jodi Koch

Personnel: Carol Borremans

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