



Resurrection Lutheran Church

To Live & Share the Love of Christ

Pastor Melissa Pagel

Sunday, December 22nd 2024. Fourth Sunday of Advent
*(Congregational responses are printed in **Bold** type.)*

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

GATHERING

Announcements

Welcome

Please rise in body or in spirit.

Warm the Time of Winter Confession & Kyrie

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

Friends, Hope can feel slippery. One moment we may believe that change will come, that good will win, that the suffering of today will not be the suffering of tomorrow.

The next moment we can receive word of more gun violence, of more mudslinging, or yet another missile headed toward a group of humans.

Hope can feel slippery.

Fortunately for us, God's grace is not.

No matter what we are able to hold, God is able to hold onto us.

So trusting that God's grace does not let us go, join me in the prayer of confession:

congregation sings

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.

Gracious God,

You paint pictures of what could be,

but we declare those visions impossible.

You speak of the lion lying down with the lamb,

but we spout skepticism and uncertainty.

You dream of a more just day,

but we poke holes in the plan, unable to fathom that horizon.

Forgive us for losing sight of hope.

Forgive us for assuming that what we see is all there is.

Open up our hearts to see the world as you see it.

**Open up our hearts to risk hope, to dream dreams,
and to not be afraid of either.**

With gratitude we pray, Amen.

sing vs 3

Friends, No matter what you hold onto,

and no matter what you let slip through your hands, God is holding onto you. That good news will never change.

So hear and believe the good news of the Gospel:

Today is a new day. Today, we have reason to hope. Today, we are forgiven. And the same will be true tomorrow.

Thanks be to God for a love like that. **Amen.**

Priest/Cantor

1. You

Verses

9 *Em* *D/E* *C/E* *D/E*

came as a child of Beth - le - hem 7 to
 (2.) come as the Son of Mar - y, 7 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, Chri - ste, Chri - ste, e - le - i - son.
 Ky - ri - e, Ky - ri - e, Ky - ri - e, e - le - i - son.

21 *F* *All* *Cmaj⁷* *D/F[♯]* *Bm⁷* *Cmaj⁷*

Ky - ri - e, Ky - ri - e, Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.
 Chr - ste, Chri - ste, Chri - ste e - le - i - son.
 Ky - ri - e, Ky - ri - e, Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.

25 1., 2. 3. *Am* *Em/G*
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, Holy God, **The stories of Advent are stories many of us have heard before. We've arranged the nativity scenes. We've read**

the children's books. We've seen the movies. We've sung the songs. But as we come to your scripture this morning, we pray: help us begin again. Clear the distractions from our minds. Center us in this space.

Move through the protective barriers we surround ourselves with and speak to us here and now. We are listening. We are hopeful. Amen.

Please be seated.

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

WORD

Candle Lighting: In a weary and worn world, how do we begin again? Where do we start?

Let us begin with tenderness.

Let us begin with our hearts on our sleeve. Let us begin from a place of vulnerability and hope.

Let us begin with love.

Yes, let us start with love.

Today we light the candles of hope, peace, joy, and love.

May the warmth of these lights be our cornerstone.

May the truth in these lights help us begin again.

May it be so! Amen.

First Reading: Luke 1:46-55

And Mary^[a] said, "My soul magnifies the Lord,
⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, ⁴⁸for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant. Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed, ⁴⁹for the Mighty One has done great things for me,

and holy is his name;

⁵⁰indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.

⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
⁵² He has brought down the powerful from their thrones
and lifted up the lowly;
⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things
and sent the rich away empty.
⁵⁴ He has come to the aid of his child Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
⁵⁵ according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”
Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

Please rise in body or in spirit.

Acclamation *Come Now, O Prince of Peace* **ELW 247 vs 2**

Music next pg.

O - so - sŏ o - so - sŏ, pyong - hwa - ŭi - im - giŏm

1 Come now, O Prince of peace, make us one bod - y.
 2 Come now, O God of love, make us one bod - y.
 3 Come now and set us free, O God, our Sav - ior.
 4 Come, Hope of u - ni - ty, make us one bod - y.

u - ri - ga han - mom i - ru - ge ha - so - sŏ.

Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile your peo - ple.
 Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile your peo - ple.
 Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile all na - tions.
 Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile all na - tions.

Gospel

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew 1:18-25 **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah^[a] took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” ²² All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³ “Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.” ²⁴ When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife ²⁵ but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son,^[b] and he named him Jesus.

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 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling ELW 631

Affirmation of Faith

**We believe in a God who gives us reason to hope, a God who fills our
nights with stars,
who follows winter with spring,
who dwells with and among us.**

**We believe that this God has dreams for creation, dreams of justice
like a mighty stream
and swords that will be beaten into plowshares.
Therefore, we push cynicism aside. We risk vulnerability.
We hold onto hope,
and we declare:
“My soul magnifies the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.”**

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.

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

MEAL

Offering

Choir Anthem

Christmas is Coming

Raney

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.

Great Thanksgiving

The God of grace be here with you.

The God of grace be also with you.

Lift up your hearts in thanks and praise.

Our hearts and hopes to God we raise.

Rejoice! Rejoice! For holy is the Lord,

On earth and in the heav'nly heights adored.

When Jesus sat at table with his friends,

He took the bread, and blessing it, he said:

“This is my body, offered for you;

Take, eat, this meal of grace and truth.”

Rejoice! Rejoice! We share this living bread,

And seek a day when all shall be fed.

When supper ended, Jesus took the cup.

He blessed it and he raised it up.

“This cup is life poured out for you.

My promise to make all things new.”

Rejoice! Rejoice! We share the cup of peace

With those who thirst for justice and release.

O Spirit, fire of hope sent from above

Unite us in salvation and love.

Bless these, your gifts of bread and wine

And fill us with your joy divine.

Rejoice! Rejoice! We share this meal

And bless our God, who feeds and heals.

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.

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

Please rise in body or in spirit.

Benediction

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.
God of endings and beginnings, God in the darkness and the light,
God, our hope for the journey, ✠ bless and keep you now and forever.
Amen.

Sending Hymn

Joy to the World

ELW 267

Dismissal

Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel. **Thanks be to God.**

This Week at a Glance

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

Tuesday- Quilters 9:00am

Wednesday- 6:30pm Christmas Eve worship

Thursday- 9:00am-11:00am Food Pantry

Sunday- Worship 9:30 am

Upcoming Events

Dec. 24th Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 6:30pm

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.

Noisy Offering this Sunday-Heifer International

Please bring in any reverse advent calendar items you may have prior to Dec 29th.

December 22nd

Usher: Gary McFarlane

Communion Deacon: Jodi Koch

Counters: Larry Nelson/Debbie La Plante

Lector: Cathy Morgans

Fellowship: No One Assigned

Altar Guild: Carol

December 24th

Usher: Gary McFarlane

Communion Deacon:

Counters: Larry Nelson/Debbie LaPlante

Lector: John Koch

Fellowship: No One Assigned

Altar Guild: Carol

Church Council Members

Council President: Carol Borremans

Vice President: Bill Hartung

Secretary: Jodi Koch

Treasurer: Debbie LaPlante Financial Secretary: Chris Peterson

Pastor: Melissa Pagel

Secretary: Jean Kaster

Musician: Greg Pagel

Choir Director: Beth Krepline

Committees

Resource & Finance: Jim Gatske

Education: Debbie LaPlante

Worship & Church Choir: Carol Borremans

Food Pantry: Jodi Koch

Celebration: Craig/Christina Marcin

Church Support & Property: Bill Hartung

Outreach & Wiener Wednesday: Sandy Krakow

Personnel: Carol Borremans

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