

# LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION

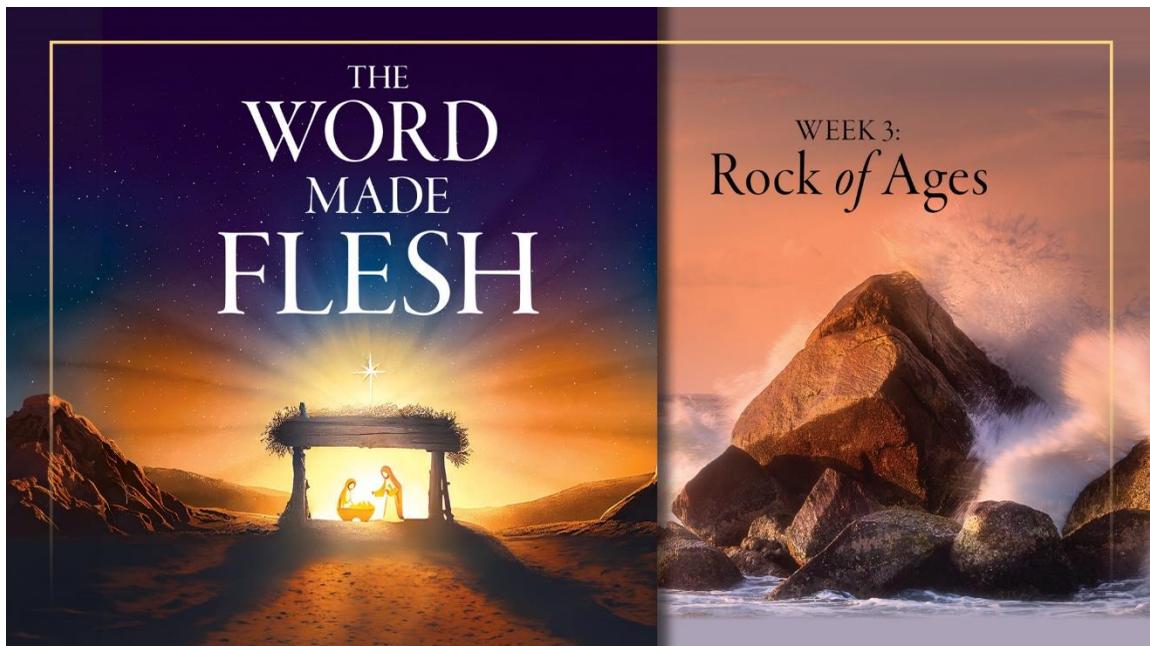
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PASTOR TOM HURLEY



**Third Sunday of Advent  
December 15, 2024**

*Whoever you are...  
Wherever you are in your JOURNEY OF FAITH...  
YOU are WELCOME here!*

## WE GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD

### Welcome

### Gathering Music

*Our celebration begins with this morning's pre-service music selection. Use this time to prepare your heart for worship by reading and meditating on the lessons for today.*



### Invocation and Prayer

Leader: Our theme verse for this Third Sunday in Advent is Isaiah 51:1,  
***Look to the rock from which you were hewn, and to the quarry from which you were dug.***

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

All: **Amen.**

*(Three candles are lit on the Advent wreath.)*

Leader: Today, we light the third candle on the Advent wreath in praise of Jesus our Savior, the Rock and Cornerstone of our salvation. Through faith in Jesus, we are members of the household of God, “built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone.”

All: **By faith, our lives are built on the solid foundation of Jesus and His Word.**

Leader: Built on that foundation, “you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ” (1 Peter 2:5).



### Opening Prayer

Leader: Let us pray: Lord Jesus, Holy Child of Bethlehem, You are our Rock and our Foundation. Help us in the power of the Holy Spirit to build our lives on You and on Your Word. By Your humble birth in Bethlehem, Your sinless life and Your suffering, death and resurrection You overcame our enemies—sin, death and the devil. When the storms and temptations of this life threaten to overwhelm us, help us to remain firm in faith, knowing that You, our Cornerstone, cannot be moved. Hear our prayer and accept our praise. Amen.

All: **In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

## **WE ARE RENEWED IN GOD'S GRACE**

Leader: Let us confess our sins to God, and ask for His forgiveness.

**All: Almighty God, You have called us to be Your holy people, built on Jesus, the Rock of our salvation. Yet, we often seek to live according to our own sinful desires instead of following Your holy will. We try to build our lives on the weak and crumbling foundations of earthly values and possessions. Have mercy on us and forgive us. Strengthen us to live as Your holy people, built on Jesus our Cornerstone.**

Pastor: God has had mercy on us. He sent His Son, Jesus, our Savior, to be born among us. Jesus was the stone the builders rejected. Innocent of all sin, He bore our sins in His body on the cross. Our sins are washed away in His blood. I announce to you that your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**All: Lord Jesus, help us each day to build our lives on You, our Rock, our Foundation and our Cornerstone.**



Opening Song: “Lift Up Your Heads, You Mighty Gates” – LW #24 vs. 1,2&5

## **GOD SPEAKS THROUGH HIS WORD** *(SCRIPTURE READINGS ON PAGES 7 – 8)*

**First Reading: Isaiah 51:1 – 3**

Reader: This Is God's Word.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 10:1 – 4**

Reader: This Is God's Word.

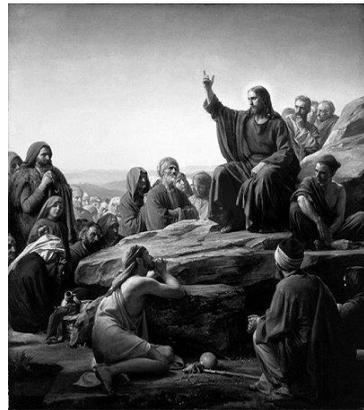
**All: Thanks be to God.**



**Gospel Reading: Matthew 7:24 – 26**

Pastor: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

**All: Praise to You, O Christ.**



Song of the Day: “The King Shall Come” – LW #26

Message: “Rock of Ages” – Pastor Tom Hurley

## **WE BRING OUR PRAISES, PRAYERS AND GIFTS**



**Nicene Creed – (All speak together)**

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.



**The Prayers – Congregation response, “Help us build our lives on you.”**

**Offering – The offering plate is by the door as you exit today.**

## **WE ARE REFRESHED BY GOD’S GRACE**

Pastor: Gather Your people in these moments and lead us along the holy way to the Table where the Spirit anoints the bread and the cup and blesses all who have come for this feast. As we are strengthened by the bread and wine, may we show the way toward healing to the imprisoned, the sightless, the sufferers of chronic pain, those who struggle to hear. As we drink from grace’s cup, may we notice what You are doing in our midst so grief and loneliness will disappear, never to be seen again.

### **Words of Institution**



**Lord’s Prayer:**

**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



*Please come forward as the ministers (Pastor and Lay Leader) serve you the Sacrament. As the ministers give the bread and wine, they say to each communicant, “The Body of Christ, given for you... The Blood of Christ, shed for you.” The communicant may say, “Amen.” We invite non-communing children to come forward for a blessing and to cross (X) their arms while at the Altar.*

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## Dismissal Blessing

### **WE GO OUT TO SHARE GOD’S GRACE**

#### **Closing Litany:**

Leader: You carved a holy way through chaos, Unveiling God,

**All: rejoicing with Word and Spirit as creation trickled down mountains to form rivers, birds built nests in shrubs and trees, bees and butterflies pollinated meadows.**

Leader: These great, and good, things were for those formed in Your image so we might be with You in wonder,

**All: but we were blinded by sin’s sparkling seductions and could not envision the life You offered to us.**

Leader: Patiently, You sent prophets to us, who urged us over and again to return, but we continued to look favorably upon the gifts offered by sin and death.

**All: So You emptied Your strong heart, becoming weak in the baby born in Bethlehem for us. We wait now for His wondrous birth.**

#### **Benediction**

Pastor: Jesus said, “Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock.

**All: And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock.”**

Pastor: May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you. May the Lord look upon you with His favor and grant you His everlasting peace. **Amen.**



**Closing Hymn: “My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less” – LW #368**

**Postlude: Melissa Muller**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**ADULT FORUM** – Join us **Monday mornings at 9:30 on ZOOM**. Look for the ZOOM invitation in your email each **Sunday afternoon**.

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### **SERVING IN THE LORD'S FIELD TODAY:**

**Lay Leader:** Judy Montoya  
**Comm. Assistant:** Judy Montoya  
**Ushers/Greeter:** John & Gail Hutson  
**Reader:** Doug Holm  
**Altar/Pre-Post Clean:** Susan Desmond  
**Counter:** Chuck Bakken  
**Fellowship:** John & Gail Hutson

### **SERVING IN THE LORD'S FIELD NEXT SUNDAY:**

**Lay Leader:** Nelson Gremmels  
**Comm. Assistant:** *\*No Comm.*  
**Usher/Greeter:** Nelson & Shirley Gremmels  
**Reader:** Linda Sotto  
**Altar/Pre-Post Clean:** *Daina Vitols\**  
**Counter:** Shirley Gremmels  
**Fellowship:** Linda Sotto & Joy Bloom

*\*No Communion on these Sundays. Altar person will fill the candles on the Altar, change & light the hanging candle.*

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**BIRTHDAY:** None

**WEDDING ANNIVERSARY:** None

**SERVING IN THE MILITARY:** **Dwight & Joseph Worthington** (*Grandsons of the Bakken's*), and **Esteban Ramirez** (*Grandson of Mercedes See*), and **1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Charles Gremmels** (*Son of Tom & Kevin Gremmels & Grandson of Nelson & Shirley Gremmels*).

### **SURGERY/ILLNESS/PRAYER REQUEST:**

**Shirley Soldavini** – Recovery from an infection in her left kidney.

**Diana Goebel** – Prayers during medical testing.

**Fern Johnson** – Pray for recovery from surgery and for her asthmatic condition.

**Jules & Elena Schindler** – Pray for Jules dementia condition, and Elena's weak heart, while caring for Jules.

**Mike Gremmels** – Continued prayers for healing from surgery.

**Carmen Roncancio** – Prayers for her health and prayers for the finances of her great-grandson, Gabriel, and his father, Daniel.

**Lance Desmond** – Prayers for a kidney transplant, as he continues dialysis.

**Ken Benson** – Continued healing from cancer.



### **First Reading: Isaiah 51:1 – 3**

Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness, you who seek the Lord: look to the rock from which you were hewn, and to the quarry from which you were dug. Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah who bore you; for he was but one when I called him, that I might bless him and multiply him. For the Lord comforts Zion; he comforts all her waste places and makes her wilderness like Eden, her desert like the garden of the Lord.

### **Second Reading: I Corinthians 10:1 – 4**

For I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ.

### **Gospel Reading: Matthew 7:24 – 26**

Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand.

## **Lighting the Way for Joy**



ADVENT

# THE WORD MADE FLESH

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us,  
and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only  
Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

JOHN 1:14



WEEK 1  
*Bread of Life*



WEEK 2  
*Salt of the Earth*



WEEK 3  
*Rock of Ages*



WEEK 4  
*Light of the World*