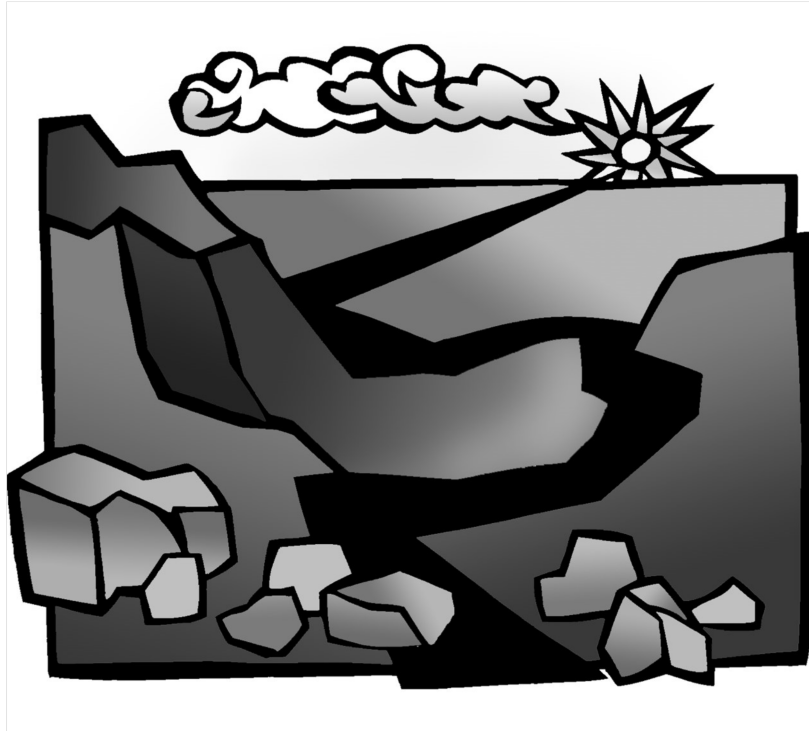


2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT
9:30 AM WORSHIP SERVICES
DECEMBER 8, 2024

Livestreamed on Facebook at 9:30 AM: <https://facebook.com/rlcfw>



INTRODUCTION

Forerunners and messengers advance the advent of our God. While John the baptizer's voice in the wilderness may be the principal focus of the day, Malachi's prophecy could as easily herald the coming Christ as forerunner of the LORD of hosts. Finally all the baptized are called to participate in the sharing of the gospel. In so doing we prepare the way for the coming of Jesus and assist all people in capturing a vision of the "salvation of God."

PRELUDE

WORSHIP *(remain seated)*

Let us prepare ourselves for worship.

Taking a moment to settle our bodies and gather our minds and hearts into the present, we give our attention to God and each other...

GATHERING HYMN # 259 "Fling Wide the Door"



1 Fling wide the door, un - bar the gate; the King of glo - ry
 2 He is the rock of our be - lief, the heart of mer - cy's
 3 Oh, hap - py towns and bless - ed lands that live by their true
 4 Come, Lord, our Sav - ior, Je - sus Christ; our hearts are o - pen



comes in state; the Lord of lords and King of kings, the
 gen - tle self. His king - ly crown is ho - li - ness; his
 king's com - mands. And bless - ed be the hearts he rules, the
 wide in trust. Oh, show us now your love - ly grace, up -



Sav - ior of the world who brings his great sal - va - tion
 scep - ter is his love - li - ness; he brings our sor - rows
 hum - ble plac - es where he dwells. He is the right - ful
 on our sor - rows shine your face, and let your Ho - ly



to the earth. So raise a shout of ho - ly mirth and
 to an end. Now glad - ly praise our king and friend, and
 Son of bliss who fills our lives and makes us his, cre -
 Spir - it guide our jour - ney in your grace so wide. We



praise our God and Lord, Cre - a - tor, Spir - it, Word.
 wor - ship him with song for sav - ing us from wrong.
 a - tor of the world, our on - ly strength for good.
 praise your ho - ly name, from age to age the same!

Text: Georg Weissel, 1590–1635; tr. Gracia Grindal, b. 1943
 Music: MACHT HOCH DIE TÜR, J. A. Freylinghausen, *Geistreiches Gesangbuch*, 1704
 Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

PRAYER

P O God whose love is our everything, when fear overwhelms us and we cannot see a way out, speak to our fear with your love. Calm our troubled hearts and provide peace in our fearful world. In Jesus' name we pray.

C **Amen.**

SEE BLUE INSERT

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who alone does wonders,
who lifts up the lowly,
who fills the hungry with good things.

C **Amen.**

P Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P God for whom we wait,

C **in the presence of one another,
we confess our sin before you.**

We fail in believing that your good news is for us.

We falter in our call to tend your creation.

We find our sense of self in material wealth.

We fear those different from ourselves.

**We forget that we are your children
and turn away from your love.**

**Forgive us, Blessed One,
and assure us again of your saving grace.**

Amen.

P God, in Christ Jesus, has looked with favor upon you!
Through the power of the Holy Spirit,
† your sins are forgiven.

You are children of the Most High,
inheritors of the eternal promise,
and recipients of divine mercy.
God strengthens you anew to follow the way of peace.

C Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

CANTICLE - CHOIR

“Prepare the Royal Highway”

Prepare the royal highway; the King of kings is near!
Let ev’ry hill and valley a level road appear!
Then greet the King of glory, foretold in sacred story:
Hosanna to the Lord, for he fulfills God’s word!

Oh, sing a joyful song. Sing alleluia, praise the Lord.
Oh, sing a joyful song. Sing alleluia, praise the Lord.
Sing praise, sing praise to the Lord. Alleluia, praise the Lord.
Alleluia, praise the Lord. Praise the Lord.

Prepare the royal highway; the King of kings is near!
Let ev’ry hill and valley a level road appear!
Then greet the King of glory, foretold in sacred story:
Hosanna to the Lord, for he fulfills God’s word!

Words by F. M. Francis Tune: Bereden Vag For Herran
arr. by Hal H. Hopson © 1995 MorningStar Music Publishers

READING

Malachi 3:1-4

¹See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. ²But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; ³he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. ⁴Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

P Alleluia. Prepare the way of the Lord. All flesh shall see the salvation of God.

C **Alleluia.** (*Luke 3:4, 6*)

GOSPEL READING

P The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 1st chapter

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

Luke 1:68-79

"Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them. ⁶⁹ He has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of his servant David, ⁷⁰ as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, ⁷¹ that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us. ⁷² Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors, and has remembered his holy covenant, ⁷³ the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham, to grant us ⁷⁴ that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve him without fear, ⁷⁵ in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. ⁷⁶ And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, ⁷⁷ to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins.

⁷⁸ By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, ⁷⁹ to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."

P ...the Gospel of our Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S SERMON - Spark Bible page # 208

PENNY COLLECTION

CHIMES

"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"
Arr. By: Lloyd Larson

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY # 256

“Comfort, Comfort Now My People”



1 “Com - fort, com-fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!” So says our God.
2 For the her - ald’s voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,
3 Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain.



Com-fort those who sit in dark - ness mourn-ing un - der sor - row’s load.
call - ing us to true re - pen - tance, since the reign of God is here.
Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be - fits God’s ho - ly reign.



To God’s peo - ple now pro-claim that God’s par - don waits for them!
Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way.
For the glo - ry of the Lord now on earth is shed a - broad,



Tell them that their war is o - ver; God will reign in peace for - ev - er.
Val - leys, rise to greet the Sav - ior; hills, bow down in hum-ble fa - vor.
and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God’s word is nev - er bro - ken.

Text: Johann G. Olearius, 1635–1711; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
Music: FREU DICH SEHR, *Trente quatre pseumes de David*, Geneva, 1551

APOSTLES’ CREED

P My brothers and sisters, having heard the Good News proclaimed, let us confess our faith together using the words of the Apostle’s Creed.

C **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 catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.**

Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

P As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence.

A brief silence

A Refining God, move through your church. Root out practices that harm your people, and kindle a fire for sharing the gospel among bishops, pastors, deacons, and all the baptized. Lord, in your mercy,

C **receive our prayer.**

A Renewing God, transform your creation. Steer us from habits that harm what you have made, and guide us in practices that preserve and restore creatures and habitats. Lord, in your mercy,

C **receive our prayer.**

A Ruling God, teach the nations your ways. Strengthen organizations and communities that broker peace and care for refugees, immigrants, and all caught in the center of conflict. Lord, in your mercy,

C **receive our prayer.**

A Rescuing God, restore your people who are in any need. Heal all who are suffering. Provide comfort and strength, and nurture sustained wholeness for the future.
Lord, in your mercy,
C **receive our prayer.**

A Reforming God, fill this congregation with your presence. Enrich our seasonal preparations, and bless the efforts by worship committees, music ensembles, staff, clergy, and lay leaders as they work in the weeks ahead. Lord, in your mercy,
C **receive our prayer.**

P Reassuring God, we remember those who have died and rest in you. Guide us in deep gratitude for their life, and allow us to learn from their faithful witness. Lord, in your mercy,
C **receive our prayer.**

P Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ.
C **Amen.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C **And also with you.**

Greet one another as you feel comfortable. If you do not wish to shake hands, please extend a fist for a "fist-bump" or make the sign of peace to your neighbor.

OFFERING

Our offering is given as worship: a statement of thanks and an act of faith in the God who provides all; out of love as a giving of ourselves to the God of love; and as an act of support for Resurrection and an investment in the life and faith of others. So, let us continue our worship now by presenting God with our offerings of duty and delight.

TIME OF OFFERING

Options for giving:

Drop in offering plate

Mail in your offering

Use Bill Pay from your bank

Use Venmo. From the app search for us: @Resurrection-Lutheran

Use our online secure Giving Page: bit.ly/RLCFW-give or scan the QR code.



OFFERING PRAYER

- A God of our waiting and watching, we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives to the service of all your people. Prepare the way before us as we meet you in this simple meal, through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace.
- C **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

P Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.
Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.
Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,
the Word made flesh.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray,

**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**

COMMUNION

Communion is the high point of worship. Again, we are given a place at God's family table, and we receive Jesus himself as both host and meal...*Instructions are given here*
My siblings, this is Jesus' table, all are welcome here.

A TIME FOR COMMUNION AND REFLECTION

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

p My sisters and brothers, at this time and in this place you are in the very Kingdom of God, now may His Body and His Blood strengthen and keep you in his grace.

C Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A Generous God, we thank you for the gift of life, for the bread of salvation. We thank you for coming among us, for leading us into peace. We thank you for showering us with mercy, for sending us into the world. Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us as we feed the hungry in your name.

C **Amen.**

BLESSING

P 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.

C **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN - See Next Page

We keep a moment's silence to thank God for this time, to take another deep breath of the Holy Spirit, and to get ready to go out to love and serve, God, neighbor, and self.

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace.

C **Being an example of God's acceptance and grace to all.**

POSTLUDE

SENDING HYMN #250

“Blessed Be the God of Israel”



1 Blessed be the God of Is - ra - el who comes to set us free
2 With prom - ised mer - cy will God still the cov - e - nant re - call,
3 My child, as proph - et of the Lord you will pre - pare the way,



and rais - es up new hope for us: a Branch from Da - vid's tree.
the oath once sworn to A - bra - ham, from foes to save us all;
to tell God's peo - ple they are saved from sin's e - ter - nal sway.



So have the proph - ets long de - clared that with a might - y arm
that we might wor - ship with - out fear and of - fer lives of praise,
Then shall God's mer - cy from on high shine forth and nev - er cease



God would turn back our en - e - mies and all who wish us harm.
in ho - li - ness and righ - teous - ness to serve God all our days.
to drive a - way the gloom of death and lead us in - to peace.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944, based on Luke 1:68-79

Music: FOREST GREEN, English folk tune

Text © 1989 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

PRAY FOR...

Lashonta Bostic
Ann Wrobel
Jeff Wrobel
Kaitlyn Konger
Elaine Wolf
Ben Franklin
Ron Proctor
Margaret Haft
Dan Heingartner
Pastor Van Gundy
Judy Marhover

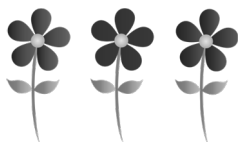
Jim Pepler
Duane Steffen
Eddie Carnahan
Danny & Susie
Ron Knepper
Jenny Hobby
Bob Hobby
Stephanie Haft
Dot
John Gray
Family of Joan Taller

Military Service:

Bailey Beyer
Jaidyn Beyer
Dakota Francis
Jon Popovich
Matthew Gephart

Homebound:

Cindy Dankert
Cheryl Goble
Sarajane Hill



*Today's altar flowers are given by the Grosjeans celebrating
the birthday of Sherry!*



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christmas Eve Service Times

December 24th

6:00 PM - Christmas Eve Barn Service

**9:00 PM - Traditional Christmas Eve
Service**



