

Welcome to Resurrection Lutheran

December 25, 2023

In Christ the Cornerstone...Living His Word, Sharing His Love

Christmas Day



AS WE GATHER

We recall the words of Isaiah the prophet who speaks of a people sitting in darkness beholding a great light. That light is Jesus, the light of the world. He has shined upon us, and we are called to spread His light to the world. Consider those in your life who are struggling with darkness and need the light of Christ.

Welcome!
We are glad you are here!

Reverend Dr. Christopher Ascher – Pastor
Associate Pastor Albert Bakat – Evangelist
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Opening Hymn: #387 Joy to the World

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Opening Sentences

P The people who walked in darkness

C have seen a great light!

P For behold, I bring you good news of great joy!

C Unto us is born this day a Savior!

P He is Christ, the Lord!

C Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace!

Confession and Absolution

P Today we celebrate Christmas, the incarnation of Jesus, the Word of God becoming flesh. Jesus came to bring peace and joy through all the earth, yet centuries later, our world is still filled with war and violence, hopelessness and despair. Too often, we have spread the evils of the world, rather than the joy and peace of Jesus. But our heavenly Father invites us to come before Him to ask for His forgiveness.

~~ Silence for reflection ~~

P Heavenly Father,

C we confess that we have failed to live in the joy and peace of Jesus. We have taken Your salvation for granted. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we know the joy of the Lord.

P Our heavenly Father sent Jesus to embrace all people. Jesus comes to heal the sick, to preach good news to the poor, and to forgive sinners like you and me. Therefore, as a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen. We are joyful in Jesus. We are forgiven in Christ.

Introit

Psalm 93:1-2, 5; antiphon: Isaiah 9:2

C The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.

P The Lord reigns; He is robed in majesty;

C the Lord is robed; He has put on strength as His belt.

P Yes, the world is established;

C it shall never be moved.

P Your throne is established from of old;

C You are from everlasting.

P Your decrees are very trustworthy;

C holiness befits Your house, O Lord, forevermore.

C Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.

Salutation

- P** The Lord be with you.
C And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

- P** Let us pray. Most merciful God, You gave Your eternal Word to become incarnate of the pure Virgin. Grant Your people grace to put away fleshly lusts, that they may be ready for Your visitation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 62:10-12

¹⁰Go through, go through the gates;
prepare the way for the people;
build up, build up the highway;
clear it of stones;
lift up a signal over the peoples.
¹¹Behold, the LORD has proclaimed
to the end of the earth:
Say to the daughter of Zion,
“Behold, your salvation comes;
behold, his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.”
¹²And they shall be called The Holy People,
The Redeemed of the LORD;
and you shall be called Sought Out,
A City Not Forsaken.

Epistle

Titus 3:4-7

⁴When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, ⁵he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, ⁶whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Verse

Luke 2:14

Alleluia. Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased! Alleluia.

Holy Gospel

Luke 2:15-20

¹⁵When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. ¹⁷And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. ¹⁸And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Children's Message

SERMON HYMN: #376 Once in Royal David's City

Sermon

Nicene Creed

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Prayer of the Church

- P** For the people who walked in darkness
C have seen a great light.

... *CONTINUE*

- P** Lord, we commend all of these things to Your infinite mercies, which are new every morning. For the people who walked in darkness
C have seen a great light. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Offering

Benediction

CLOSING HYMN: #380 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

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