



Risen Christ Lutheran Church
Christmas Morning Worship
December 25, 2022
9:30am



Rev. Rennie Kaufmann – Pastor Karen Kaufmann – Administrator
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ABOUT HOLY COMMUNION – (2nd & 4th Sundays) We believe: that Christ’s body and blood are truly present for forgiveness and spiritual strength, that God desires our sincere confession, continuous seeking and giving forgiveness and, that being genuine in taking Communion so that we not harm ourselves by taking it in an unworthy manner. If you believe the above, are a baptized believer who trusts in the death and resurrection of Jesus for the forgiveness of sins, and have examined yourself, you are welcome to commune with us. Please talk to Pastor if you have any questions. The bread is offered before the “individual” and “common” cups of wine. (Note: White Non-Alcoholic Wine is in the center of the tray.)

OFFERING – Through the offerings of His faithful people, our Lord provides for the ongoing work of His Church. If you are a visitor, we are glad that you came to be served by the Lord this day. If you choose to contribute to the ongoing work of the Gospel, we give thanks that God has moved you to contribute toward the work of sharing the Gospel here in Plymouth and around the world! You can also take advantage of

Online Giving by visiting www.RisenChrist.info

A WORD TO OUR GUESTS – Welcome and thank you for coming. Please complete a Worship Card and place it in the offering plate. Pastor will send you a welcome card. Please indicate that you “desire” a call for any further contact.

Large Print Bulletins – Available from an usher.

Listening Assistance Devices – Available at the Sound Booth.

Parent Room – A row of seating and plenty of area for standing or walking is available in the Welcome Area/Lobby (“Narthex”)

For Children – Children’s Book Cart for Worship: Available in the Welcome Area.

As We Gather – The long wait is over—the Savior is born! For many people, the days, weeks, and even months have been filled with anticipation for Christmas. For children, it may be an anticipation of gifts; for others, it may be long-awaited family time enjoyed and all the season brings. For all, we pray the Good News of a Savior born this day in the city of David is the overarching reason to celebrate. Others in history had to wait a much longer time for their Christmas joy. Approximately seven centuries before “the Word became flesh” (John 1:14), Isaiah would be inspired by the Spirit to proclaim to the people, “The Lord has bared His holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God” (Isaiah 52:10). Though the people of Isaiah’s day would not experience Christmas as we do, they would hold on by faith to the anticipated promise of salvation through our Savior who was to come. For us, we give thanks that salvation has come. In the Son of God wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger, and with the mission for humanity set before Him, “The Lord has bared His holy arm” (Isaiah 52:10). May this promise fulfilled increase our Christmas joy as God still comes to us today in His Means of Grace, that we not only see but often celebrate the salvation of our God.

Welcome

Lighting of the Wreath Psalm 100

- ☐ On this holy day, we light the Christ Candle as we rejoice in the birth of our Savior Jesus, the Word made flesh, the Child of Bethlehem. The Christ Candle is a symbol of His presence among us. In the words of the psalmist, we, the people of His pasture, celebrate the birth of our Good Shepherd.

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth!

C Serve the LORD with gladness!

P Come into His presence with singing!

C Know that the LORD, He is God!

P It is He who made us, and we are His;

C we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture.

P Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise!

C Give thanks to Him; bless His name!

P For the LORD is good; His steadfast love endures forever,

C and His faithfulness to all generations.

The candles are lit.

Opening Sentences John 1:1, 4–5, 9; Isaiah 9:6; 52:10

P In the beginning was the Word,

C and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

P In Him was life,

C and the life was the light of men.

P The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

C The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

P For to us a child is born, to us a son is given;

C and the government shall be upon His shoulder,

P and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,

C Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

P The LORD has bared His holy arm before the eyes of all the nations,

C and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

O Come All Ye Faithful

1. O come all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!

O come ye, o come ye to Bethlehem;

Come and behold Him born the king of angels:

REFRAIN: O come let us adore Him,

O come let us adore Him

O come, let us adore Him,

Christ the Lord!

2. Highest, most holy, light of light eternal,
Born of a virgin, a mortal He comes;
Son of the Father now in flesh appearing! **REFRAIN**

3. Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God in the highest; **REFRAIN**

Confession and Absolution John 1:4–5; Isaiah 52:10

- P** Jesus, Word made flesh, You came to dwell among us, but the darkness of our sin separates and we often fail to bask in the light of Your presence.
- C** **We are sinful and unclean; we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment.**
- P** John writes in our Gospel lesson, “In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.” Heavenly Father, too frequently we live in the darkness of unbelief.
- C** **Forgive us, Lord, for those sins we know, and those sins we do not know.**
- P** For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.
- C** **Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**
- P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to be born into this world and in our flesh for us, to live a perfect life we can never attain, and to give His life as a perfect sacrifice for you. For His sake, He forgives you all your sins. Christ was born to live for us, to die for us, that we by faith will rise with Him in victory. He was born as our Savior to forgive. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.**
- P** The LORD has bared His holy arm before the eyes of all the nations,
- C** **and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.**

Introit Psalm 93:1–2, 5; antiphon: Isaiah 9:2

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.**

The LORD reigns; he is robed in majesty;
the LORD is robed; he has put on strength as his belt.

**Yes, the world is established;
it shall never be moved.**

Your throne is established from of old;
you are from everlasting.

**Your decrees are very trustworthy;
holiness befits your house, O LORD, forevermore.**

**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 and Prayer of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

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.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm Psalm 98; antiphon: v. 2

¹Oh sing to the LORD a new song,
for he has done marvelous things!
His right hand and his holy arm
have worked salvation for him.

**²The LORD has made known his salvation;
he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.**

³He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness
to the house of Israel.
All the ends of the earth have seen
the salvation of our God.

**⁴Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song and sing praises!**

⁵Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre,
with the lyre and the sound of melody!

**⁶With trumpets and the sound of the horn
make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD!**

⁷Let the sea roar, and all that fills it;
the world and those who dwell in it!

**⁸Let the rivers clap their hands;
let the hills sing for joy together**

⁹before the LORD, for he comes
to judge the earth.
He will judge the world with righteousness,
and the peoples with equity.

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.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

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

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

G **Glory to You, O Lord.**

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.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

G **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly



1 In - fant ho - ly, In - fant low - ly, For His bed a cat - tle stall;
2 Flocks were sleep - ing, Shep - herds keep - ing Vig - il till the morn - ing new



Ox - en low - ing, Lit - tle know - ing Christ the child is Lord of all.
Saw the glo - ry, Heard the sto - ry, Tid - ings of a Gos - pel true.



Swift - ly wing - ing, An - gels sing - ing, Bells are ring - ing, Tid - ings bring - ing:
Thus re - joic - ing, Free from sor - row, Prais - es voic - ing, Greet the mor - row:



Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!
Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

Christmas Morning Message by *Pastor Rennie*

Nicene Creed

C 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 men 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 Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life \dagger of the world to come. Amen.

Offering – ONLINE GIVING available at www.RisenChrist.info – Whether you are a visitor or a member, please turn in a Worship Card so we may know whom the Lord has served with His Word.

Prayer of the Church

- P** Let us pray in song and in words spoken for the Church of God and for all people according to their needs.
- P** Father, on this day we recall how great is Your love for us, sending Your Son into our world as an infant, to be our Savior and to forgive our sins.
- C** **Thank You, Lord, for this Christmas gift.**

P Jesus, on this day we recall how great is Your love for us; You came from heaven to live on earth as one of us, and one with us, to forgive our sin.

C **Thank You, Lord, for this Christmas gift.**

P Holy Spirit, on this day we recall how great is Your love for us, gathering us together through the water of Baptism and nourishing our faith through the Word and the body and blood of Jesus for the forgiveness of our sin.

C **Thank You, Lord, for this Christmas gift given, received, and kept unto life eternal.**

P Gracious Lord, You have bared Your holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, that the ends of the earth shall see Your salvation. Even amid Christmas peace and joy, we experience the hurt and harm of this world. We lift up all those who suffer in mind, body, or spirit, [especially . . .]. Reach out to them with Your holy arm and the light of our Savior that they may be comforted in their time of need, seeing the salvation You have prepared for all through faith.

P All these things we bring before You, through Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh.

C **Amen.**

Preface

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 Him thanks and praise.**

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

The Words of Our Lord

- P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My † body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My † blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Proclamation of Christ

- P** As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.
- C** **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**
- P** O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

Lord's Prayer

- 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.**

Pax Domini

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C** **Amen.**

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

1. Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

**Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"**

2. Christ, by highest heav'n adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold Him come,
Offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,
Hail the incarnate Deity!
Pleased as Man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Immanuel!

**Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"**

3. Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!

Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings,
Ris'n with healing in His wings.

Mild He lays His glory by,
Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth.

**Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"**

O Little Town of Bethlehem

1. O little town of Bethlehem
How still we see thee lie
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting Light
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight

2. For Christ is born of Mary
And gathered all above
While mortals sleep
The angels keep
their watch of wondering love
O morning stars together
Proclaim the holy birth
And praises sing to God the King
And peace to men on earth

3. How silently how silently
The wondrous gift is given
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of His heaven
No ear may hear His coming
But in this world of sin
Where meek souls will receive Him still
The dear Christ enters in

4. O holy Child of Bethlehem
Descend to us we pray
Cast out our sin and enter in
Be born in us today
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell
O come to us abide with us
Our Lord Emmanuel

Give Thanks

Give thanks with a grateful heart
Give thanks to the Holy One
Give thanks because He's given
Jesus Christ His Son

***And now let the weak say I am strong
Let the poor say I am rich
Because of what the Lord has done for us***

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Post-Communion Thanksgiving

P Let us pray.

Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Go Tell It on the Mountain

***REFRAIN: Go tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and ev'rywhere;
Go tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born!***

1. While shepherds kept their watching
O'er silent flocks by night,
Behold, throughout the heavens
There shone a holy light. ***REFRAIN***

2. The shepherds feared and trembled
When lo, above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus
That hailed our Savior's birth. ***REFRAIN***

3. Down in a lonely manger
The humble Christ was born;
And God sent us salvation
That blessed Christmas morn. ***REFRAIN***

Benediction

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

C Amen.

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