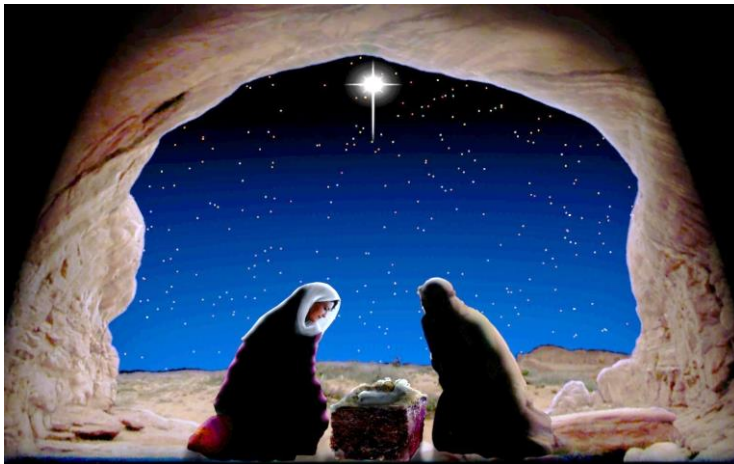




Risen Christ Lutheran Church
1st Sunday after Christmas
December 31, 2023

9:30am

**REMEMBER, YOU ARE IN GOD'S SANCTUARY. AS YOU ENTER
PLEASE SIT QUIETLY, PRAY, AND READ THROUGH YOUR
WORSHIP FOLDER TO PREPARE FOR WORSHIP.**



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

**Risen Christ Lutheran Church
46250 Ann Arbor Road Plymouth, MI 48170
734.453.5252 www.risenchrist.info**

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 – How long is a generation? Keepers of statistics suggest that a generation is between twenty and thirty years and note that at the present time there are six distinct generations living in the United States. The current generations range from our oldest citizens, known as the *Greatest Generation* through our youngest, given the group name of *Generation Z*. In the account of the presentation of our Lord in the temple at Jerusalem, we see Jesus as a baby from the youngest generation and we meet Anna the prophetess, well advanced into the most elderly generation, and Simeon, who is often portrayed as an older man. The temple is the place for all generations to experience the presence and blessing of God! The psalmist exults in praise to God: “One generation shall commend Your works to another, and shall declare Your mighty acts” (Psalm 145:4). As we worship, we continue that praise in this generation.

Welcome and Announcements

Invocation and Opening Sentences

Psalm 89:1, 52; 71:19, 23

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

C Amen.

P I will sing of the steadfast love of the LORD, forever;

C with my mouth I will make known Your faithfulness to all generations.

P Your righteousness, O God, reaches the high heavens.

C You who have done great things, O God, who is like You?

P My lips will shout for joy, when I sing praises to You;

C my soul also, which You have redeemed.

P Blessed be the LORD forever!

C Amen and Amen.

Angels from the Realms of Glory

1. Angels from the realms of glory,
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation's story,
Now proclaim Messiah's birth. **Refrain**

**Refrain: Come and worship,
come and worship;
Worship Christ,
the newborn King.**

2. Shepherds in the field abiding,
Watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing,
Yonder shines the Infant Light. **Refrain**

3. Sages, leave your contemplations,
Brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great Desire of nations,
Ye have seen His natal star. **Refrain**

4. Saints before the altar bending,
Watching long in hope and fear,
Suddenly the Lord, descending,
In His temple shall appear. **Refrain**

5. All creation, join in praising
God the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising
To the eternal Three in One. **Refrain**

Confession and Absolution

P People redeemed by the Lord, let us now make confession of our sins to God, our heavenly Father.

C **Merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We repent of having sinned in thought, in word, and in deed. So often we have left undone those things which we ought to have done and have done those things which we ought not to have done. We sincerely repent of our sins and humbly ask for the grace and forgiveness that we know to be ours in Jesus, our Savior. By the renewing work of the Holy Spirit, lead us, heavenly Father, to change what is sinful in our lives so that each day we grow in righteousness and godly living to the glory of Your holy name.**

P God has promised pardon, life, and salvation because of the atoning sacrifice of His beloved Son, who has replaced slavery to sin with a priceless inheritance of freedom and joy. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I forgive you all of your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. As you believe, so may it be.

C Amen.

Introit

Psalm 98:1-4; Isaiah 52:10

C **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.**

I *Oh 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.*

II *The LORD has made known His salvation; He has revealed His righteousness in the sight of the nations.*

I *He 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.*

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

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 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.

Salutation and Prayer of the Day

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

Gracious God of endings and beginnings, we commit to Your grace and forgiveness the year now being completed and commend to Your kindness and love the year about to begin. Throughout the coming weeks and months make the presence of Your Holy Spirit known in our lives, drawing us ever closer to Jesus and uniting all generations of Your faithful people in bonds of love and care, as we continue to grow in our baptismal grace and await the joy of eternal life in Your glorious presence. This we ask for the sake of Jesus, our Savior.

C **Amen.**

Hymn Introduction

- P** Every day in the life of the Church brings opportunities for praise and celebration. We have so many reasons to celebrate, including the presentation of the Savior at the temple as well as the closing of another year of our Lord while we reflect on the continuing blessings experienced by each generation.

The last day of the calendar year brings us an opportunity to reflect on the changes in life that have come our way since last January. We have been gladdened at the birth of children and observed passages such as marriages, first jobs, and new homes. God has been a constant presence, blessing the generations with His everlasting love. Using words of faith penned by English hymn writer Isaac Watts as a paraphrase of Psalm 90, we proclaim God's faithfulness in ages past and for years to come.

O God, Our Help in Ages Past



- 1 O God, our help in a - ges past, Our hope for years to come,
2 Un - der the shad - ow of Thy throne Thy saints have dwelt se - cure;
3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood Or earth re - ceived her frame,
4 A thou - sand a - ges in Thy sight Are like an eve - ning gone,



Our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, And our e - ter - nal home:
Suf - fi - cient is Thine arm a - lone, And our de - fense is sure.
From ev - er - last - ing Thou art God, To end - less years the same.
Short as the watch that ends the night Be - fore the ris - ing sun.

- 5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
Soon bears us all away;
We fly forgotten as a dream
Dies at the op'ning day.

- 6 O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Be Thou our guard while troubles last
And our eternal home!

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 61:10—62:3

¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul shall exult in my God,
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation;

he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

¹¹For as the earth brings forth its sprouts, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations.

¹For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not be quiet,
until her righteousness goes forth as brightness, and her salvation as a burning torch.

²The nations shall see your righteousness, and all the kings your glory,
and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give.

³You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

Psalm 111

L Praise the LORD!

C **I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation.**

I *Great are the works of the Lord, studied by all who delight in them.*

C **Full of splendor and majesty is His work, and His righteousness endures forever.**

II *He has caused His wondrous works to be remembered; the LORD is gracious and merciful.*

C **He provides food for those who fear Him; He remembers His covenant forever.**

I *He has shown His people the power of His works, in giving them the inheritance of the nations.*

C **The works of His hands are faithful and just; all His precepts are trustworthy; they are established forever and ever, to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.**

II *He sent redemption to His people; He has commanded His covenant forever. Holy and awesome is His name!*

C **The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever!**

Epistle

Galatians 4:4–7

⁴When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, ⁵to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. ⁶And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" ⁷So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

It Came upon the Midnight Clear

1. It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth
To touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, goodwill to all,
From heav'n's all-gracious king."
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing.

2. Still through
the cloven skies they come
With peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heav'nly music floats
O'er all the weary world.
Above its sad and lowly plains
They bend on hov'ring wing,
And ever o'er its babel sounds
The blessèd angels sing.

3. All you, beneath your heavy load,
By care and guilt bent low,
Who toil along a dreary way
With painful steps and slow:
Look up, for golden is the hour,
Come swiftly on the wing,
The Prince was born
to bring you peace;
Of Him the angels sing.

4. For lo, the days have come to pass
By prophets seen of old,
When down into the circling years
Came Christ as was foretold.
His word of peace shall to the earth
God's ancient promise bring,
And all who take this gift will hear
The song the angels sing.

Gradual

Isaiah 9:6; Psalm 98:1a

P 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 Sing to the Lord a new song, **C** **for He has done marvelous things!**

Holy Gospel

Luke 2:22–40

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter. **C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

²²When the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, [Mary and Joseph] brought [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³(as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord") ²⁴and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons." ²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. ²⁶And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. ²⁷And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, ²⁸he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

²⁹"Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word;

³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation

³¹that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel."

³³And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. ³⁴And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a

sign that is opposed ³⁵(and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.”

³⁶And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, ³⁷and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

³⁹And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord. **C** Praise to You, O Christ.

Sermon – “Ordinary People Eagerly Waiting and Expecting Our Extraordinary God to Fulfill His Promises”

Apostles’ Creed

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. 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 Eternal Lord God, in the fullness of time, You sent forth Your Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, to redeem us and give us the adoption as Your sons and heirs. Hear us, Father, as we call to You in His name. Give us grace to rejoice in Christ’s blessed incarnation, and grant us a glad new year. Lord, in Your mercy, **C** hear our prayer.

P Lead Your Church, Lord, to follow the example of blessed Simeon, that all baptized Christians would embrace the Christ Child by Word and faith, and so be ready to depart whenever they are called. Lord, in Your mercy, **C** hear our prayer.

P Heavenly Father, from whom all fatherhood on earth is named, bless Christian families with Your promises. Give parents diligence and delight in their work, and grant Your favor on all children, that they may grow in strength and wisdom. Bless widows, orphans and broken families also with Your mercy, and give them joy in the redemption You have won for us in Christ. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Holy God, mighty Lord, You have given power to the nations and to those who govern for the good of their people. Bless our president, Congress, governor and all our leaders, that justice may prevail and Your people would be free to live at peace with all. Lord, in Your mercy, **C** hear our prayer.

- P** Gracious Lord, receive our prayers for those who suffer from loneliness. Comfort them with the sure and certain knowledge that You will never forsake them. Give them family and friends within the household of faith with whom they can find loving companionship. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Blessed Lord, help the sick and suffering, especially those who desire our prayers [*including...*]. Surround them with Your love in Christ and, according to Your gracious will, heal them. Comfort those who mourn, and fill their hearts with the certain hope of the resurrection. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Father of lasting peace, show Your mercy to those who have heard Your Word read, preached, prayed, and sung, that along with St. Simeon, they be well-prepared to depart in peace according to Your Word. Lord, in Your mercy, **C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Lord God, heavenly Father, we here remember the sufferings and death of Your dear Son, Jesus Christ, for our salvation. Praising His victorious resurrection from the dead, we draw strength from His ascension before You, where He ever stands for us as our own High Priest. 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, for to You alone we give all glory, honor and worship, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

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.**

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

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series B, Quarter 1.
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