



Risen Christ Lutheran Church  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Epiphany  
January 21, 2024 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.**



*Risen Christ Lutheran Church*  
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734.453.5252 [www.risenchrist.info](http://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](http://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** – Ever had those days that felt like weeks or those weeks that felt like days? Those minutes that felt like hours, or the hours that felt like minutes? Time is a fickle thing on this earth, as we are bound by it yet our perspective of it is ever changing. Our Scripture Readings today all deal with time. As God deemed it time for Nineveh to have the opportunity to repent and know His grace, He came to Jonah a second time. In the Epistle, Paul reminds us time is short, and the physical world is passing away. In the Gospel, Jesus would begin His earthly ministry and call His disciples, echoing the words of John the Baptist, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand” (Mark 1:15). Though to the Lord a day is like a thousand years and a thousand years are like a day, we live each day knowing that all time is in His hands. Until He calls His people to glory, we rejoice for the time to gather where His Spirit is, be blessed by His Word of Law and Gospel, rejoice in mercy and forgiveness, and make use of the time given to be witnesses to others.

### **Invocation**

**P** In the name of the Father and of the  $\text{✠}$  Son and of the Holy Spirit. **C Amen.**

### **Come Thou Fount, Come Thou King**

Come Thou Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing Thy grace.  
Streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.  
Teach me some melodious sonnet sung by flaming tongues above,  
Praise the mount, I'm fixed upon it, mount of Thy redeeming love.

I was lost in utter darkness 'til You came and rescued me.  
I was bound by all my sin when Your love came and set me free.

Now my soul can sing a new song, now my heart has found a home,  
Now Your grace is always with me, and I'll never be alone.

***CHORUS: Come Thou Fount, come Thou King,  
Come Thou precious Prince of Peace;  
Hear Your bride, to You we sing;  
Come Thou Fount of our blessing;***

O, to grace, how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be.  
Let Thy goodness, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to Thee.  
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;  
Here's my heart, Lord, take and seal it, seal it for Thy courts above. ***CHORUS***

I was lost in utter darkness 'til You came and rescued me.  
I was bound by all my sin when Your love came and set me free.  
Now my soul can sing a new song, now my heart has found a home,  
Now Your grace is always with me, and I'll never be alone.

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## Confession and Absolution

*Jonah 3:2, 10; 1 Corinthians 7:29, 31; Mark 1:15, 17*

- P** Hearing the Word of God, we are called to confess our sin, trusting in the one true God who is faithful and just and who will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*Silence for meditation.*

- P** Though Jonah was reluctant when the Lord spoke to him the first time, He spoke to Jonah a second time and told him, "go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it the message that I tell you."

**C** **As You, O Lord, have given us the message of the Gospel, we have been reluctant to go bring Your truth and grace to all people. For this we seek Your forgiveness.**

- P** Paul reminds the people of God, "The appointed time has grown very short. . . . The present form of this world is passing away."

**C** **As You, O Lord, have given us each day and hold all time in Your hands, we have not used our time wisely. For this we seek Your forgiveness.**

- P** In today's Gospel, Jesus called to Simon and Andrew, "Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men." Immediately they dropped their nets and followed Him.

**C** **As You, O Lord, have called us to follow You, we have instead sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. For this we seek Your forgiveness.**

- P** Even to the evil Ninevites, God showed His mercy upon their repentance. "When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil way, God relented of the disaster that He had said He would do to them, and He did not do it." Jesus proclaimed to the people, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel." Though we deserve His present and eternal punishment, God has relented by sending His Son to bear our sin and to be our Savior.

Christ has taken our punishment on the cross, paid the price of our sins through His perfect life and sacrificial death, and for His sake forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained servant of the Word, I announce the grace of God to all of you. In the stead and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. **C Amen.**

## Introit

*Psalm 113:1–2, 4, 7–8; antiphon: v. 3*

From the rising of the sun to its setting,

**the name of the LORD is to be praised!**

Praise the LORD! Praise, O servants of the LORD,

**praise the name of the LORD!**

Blessèd be the name of the LORD

**from this time forth and forevermore!**

The LORD is high above all nations,

**and his glory above the heavens!**

He raises the poor from the dust

**and lifts the needy from the ash heap,**

to make them sit with princes,

**with the princes of his people.**

**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.**

From the rising of the sun to its setting,

**the name of the LORD is to be praised!**

## Salutation and Prayer of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

**P** Let us pray. Almighty and everlasting God, mercifully look upon our infirmities and stretch forth the hand of Your majesty to heal and defend us; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C** **Amen.**

## Old Testament Reading

*Jonah 3:1–5, 10*

<sup>1</sup>Then the word of the LORD came to Jonah the second time, saying, <sup>2</sup>“Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it the message that I tell you.” <sup>3</sup>So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, three days’ journey in breadth. <sup>4</sup>Jonah began to go into the city, going a day’s journey. And he called out, “Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!” <sup>5</sup>And the people of Nineveh believed God. They called for a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them to the least of them. . . .

<sup>10</sup>When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil way, God relented of the disaster that he had said he would do to them, and he did not do it.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord. **C** **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm

*Psalm 62; antiphon: v. 8*

<sup>1</sup>For God alone my soul waits in silence; from him comes my salvation.

**<sup>2</sup>He only is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be greatly shaken.**

<sup>3</sup>How long will all of you attack a man to batter him, like a leaning wall, a tottering fence?

**<sup>4</sup>They only plan to thrust him down from his high position. They take pleasure in falsehood.**

**They bless with their mouths, but inwardly they curse.**

<sup>5</sup>For God alone, O my soul, wait in silence, for my hope is from him.

**<sup>6</sup>He only is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be shaken.**

<sup>7</sup>On God rests my salvation and my glory; my mighty rock, my refuge is God.

**<sup>8</sup>Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before him; God is a refuge for us.**

<sup>9</sup>Those of low estate are but a breath; those of high estate are a delusion; in the balances they go up; they are together lighter than a breath.

<sup>10</sup>**Put no trust in extortion; set no vain hopes on robbery; if riches increase, set not your heart on them.**

<sup>11</sup>Once God has spoken; twice have I heard this: that power belongs to God,

<sup>12</sup>**and that to you, O Lord, belongs steadfast love. For you will render to a man according to his work.**

## Gradual

*Psalm 117:1–2a; 96:8*

**L** Praise the LORD, all nations! **C** Extol Him, all peoples!

**L** For great is His steadfast love toward us, **C** and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever.

**L** Ascribe to the LORD the glory due His name; **C** bring an offering, and come into His courts!

## Epistle

*1 Corinthians 7:29–35*

<sup>29</sup>This is what I mean, brothers: the appointed time has grown very short. From now on, let those who have wives live as though they had none, <sup>30</sup>and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no goods, <sup>31</sup>and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away. <sup>32</sup>I want you to be free from anxieties. The unmarried man is anxious about the things of the Lord, how to please the Lord. <sup>33</sup>But the married man is anxious about worldly things, how to please his wife, <sup>34</sup>and his interests are divided. And the unmarried or betrothed woman is anxious about the things of the Lord, how to be holy in body and spirit. But the married woman is anxious about worldly things, how to please her husband. <sup>35</sup>I say this for your own benefit, not to lay any restraint upon you, but to promote good order and to secure your undivided devotion to the Lord.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord. **C** Thanks be to God.

## This I Believe (The Creed)

1. Our Father everlasting  
The all creating One  
God Almighty  
Through Your Holy Spirit  
Conceiving Christ the Son  
Jesus our Saviour **CHORUS 1**

2. Our judge and our defender  
Suffered and crucified  
Forgiveness is in You  
Descended into darkness  
You rose in glorious life  
Forever seated high **CHORUS 1**

**CHORUS 1: I believe in God our Father**  
***I believe in Christ the Son***  
***I believe in the Holy Spirit***  
***Our God is three in One***  
***I believe in the resurrection***  
***That we will rise again***  
***For I believe in the Name of Jesus***

**BRIDGE:** I believe in You  
I believe You rose again  
I believe that Jesus Christ is Lord

**CHORUS 2: I believe in life eternal**  
***I believe in the virgin birth***  
***I believe in the saints' communion***  
***And in Your holy Church***  
***I believe in the resurrection***  
***When Jesus comes again***  
***For I believe in the Name of Jesus***

## Verse

Mark 1:15

**Alleluia. The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.**

**Alleluia.**

## Holy Gospel

Mark 1:14–20

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the first chapter. **G** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>14</sup>After John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, <sup>15</sup>and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."

<sup>16</sup>Passing alongside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew the brother of Simon casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. <sup>17</sup>And Jesus said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men." <sup>18</sup>And immediately they left their nets and followed him. <sup>19</sup>And going on a little farther, he saw James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, who were in their boat mending the nets. <sup>20</sup>And immediately he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants and followed him.

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

## Sermon – "God's Urgent Mission and His Call for Us to Be Urgent"

### "Favorite Song of All" (Video)

1. He loves to hear the wind sing  
as it whistles through the pines  
and mountain peaks

And He love to hear the raindrops  
as they splash to the ground in a magic melody

And He smiles in sweet approval  
as the waves crash through the rocks  
in their harmonies

All creation joins in unity  
to sing to Him majestic symphonies

***CHORUS: But His favorite song of all***

***Is the song of the redeemed***

***When lost sinners now made clean***

***Lift their voices loud and strong***

***When those purchased by His blood***

***Lift to Him a song of love***

***Nothin' more He'd rather hear***

***Nor so pleasin' to His ear***

***As His favorite song of all***

2. He loves to hear the angels  
As they sing, "Holy, holy is the Lamb"  
(Holy Holy, Holy is the Lamb)  
Heaven's choirs in harmony

lift up praises to the Great I Am  
(Hallelujah, hallelujah)

But He lifts His hands for silence  
when the weakest saved by grace begins to sing  
(Ah Ah Ah)

And a million angels listen  
as a newborn soul sings, "I have been redeemed!"

### ***CHORUS:***

***BRIDGE:*** It's not just melodies and harmonies

That capture His attention

It's not just clever lines and phrases

That cause Him to stop and listen

'Cause when any heart set free,

Washed and bought by Calvary begins to sing

***That's His favorite song of all***  
***Is the song of the redeemed***  
***When lost sinners now made clean***  
***Lift their voices loud and strong***  
***When those purchased by His blood***  
***Lift to Him a song of love***  
***There's nothin' more He'd rather hear***  
***None so pleasin' to His ear***  
***As His favorite song of all***

**ENDING:** Holy, holy, holy is the Lamb  
Hallelujah, hallelujah  
Holy, holy, holy is the Lamb  
Hallelujah, Hallelujah.

**Offering – ONLINE GIVING available at [www.RisenChrist.info](http://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**

*Isaiah 60:1, adapted*

**P** Let us pray for the Church of God and for all people according to their needs, for You, O Lord, in all times and in all places, promise to hear our prayers and to answer them according to Your will. In this season of Epiphany where the light shines on our Savior, manifested as the Word made flesh, continue to reveal to us through Your Word the mercy and grace found in Jesus Christ alone. Arise and shine,

**C for our light has come.**

**WOMEN** – God of all grace, out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy You have given us life and commanded us not to hurt or harm our neighbor in his body. Teach us to care for all unborn children whom You have created in Your image. Grant Your grace to all mothers considering abortion that, by Your Word and Spirit, they may live according to Your will and have the courage to nurture and cherish their children. Surround them with those who will rejoice, and provide for her needs of body and soul. Lord of limitless grace, in mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

**MEN** – Gracious Father in heaven, look with mercy on your daughters who suffer the guilt and shame of abortion. For the sake of Christ Jesus, our Savior, forgive them all their sins, and remove all feelings of guilt and despair. Protect them from the accusing voices of others and the accusations from within. By Your Spirit increase their faith that they may entrust themselves and their children into Your fatherly hands. Lord of limitless grace, in mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

**P** As You work Your will and send the salvation message through Your people, we are sometimes asked to go where we'd rather not go. Though not to Nineveh like Jonah, we have been called by the working of Your Spirit to go and make disciples of all nations. Grant to us a confident and bold faith to live as Your witnesses to the ends of the earth beginning in our homes, our church and community, and among all our neighbors in this world. Soften the hearts of the hard-hearted and open the minds of the close-minded that all may come to repentance and know You as the one true God who sent His Son into this world to redeem the world. Arise and shine,

**C for our light has come.**

**P** As the present world is passing away and time is short, we see the brokenness and results of sin in our daily lives. For those who struggle in body, mind, or spirit, affirm to them Your promises of peace in Your time as Christ has overcome the world. Point us all to Your continued presence, and assure us that Jesus is victor over anything that we might fear. In Your good time, come and make all things new. Arise and shine,

**C for our light has come.**

**P** As Jesus called His disciples to become fishers of men, they responded immediately to drop their nets and follow. Give us such an urgency to also hear and heed the call and to follow in faith where Christ leads. As we do not know the hour of Your return, give an eagerness to our lives as faithful stewards of all we have been given with time, treasures, and abilities, that we use them to Your glory and for the sake of others. Arise and shine,

**C** **for our light has come.**

**P** As You still come to us in our time of need, You come in the body and blood of our Savior given and shed for us for the forgiveness of sins. Equip us for the continued journey through our days that we remain firm in faith and bear fruit that will last until You call us home. Arise and shine,

**C** **for our light has come.**

**P** Into Your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C** **Amen.**

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## 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.**

## The Power of Your Love

**1.** Lord I come to You  
Let my life be changed, renewed  
Flowing from the grace that I found in You.  
And Lord I've come to know  
The weaknesses I see in me  
Will be swept away by the power of Your love.

**2.** Lord unveil my eyes  
Let me see You face to face  
The knowledge of Your love as You live in me.  
Lord renew my mind  
As Your will unfolds in my life  
In living every day by the power of Your love.

***CHORUS: Hold me close, let Your love surround me  
Bring me near, draw me to Your side.  
And as I wait, I'll rise up like the eagle  
And I will soar with You  
Your Spirit leads me on by the power of Your love.***

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## Benediction

## Postlude – “Favorite Song of All” (Video)