



Risen Christ Lutheran Church
2nd Midweek Worship in Advent

December 11, 2024 7pm

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



Guest Preacher Tonight – The Rev. Dr. David P. Stechholz

Risen Christ Lutheran Church
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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 Grape Juice 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. Brochures can be found at each door. 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 – A word used in many of the hymns of the Advent and Christmas season is “glory.” Both people and angels give glory to God in response to the fulfillment of the promised birth of the Savior. Glory is associated with the presence of God throughout the Scriptures. In Exodus, Moses records, “The glory of the Lord dwelt on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it” (Exodus 24:16) and in the Book of Revelation, a vision of the heavenly Jerusalem is shared with these words: “And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb” (Revelation 21:23). God has great glory and continues to share it with His people—including us! Filled with hope and expectation, we respond to that Advent call!

LAST ADVENT MIDWEEK SERVICE @ 7pm Wednesday, December 18

LADIES EPIPHANY TEA – Saturday, January 11th (Stay tuned! More details on the way.)

CAROLING & SING-A-LONG IN KELLOGG PARK Sunday, December 22nd 5:30pm-6:30pm
Led by Miss Esther Kaufmann and Pr. Rennie in Downtown Plymouth!!! It starts at 5:30pm!

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES WITH COMMUNION – December 24th @ 4:30pm and 7pm

REGULAR SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP IS @ 9:30am

Risen Christ welcomes our Guest Preacher Tonight, The Rev. Dr. David P. Stechholz – Bishop/President Emeritus, English District-LCMS; Archdeacon, Zion Evangelical-Lutheran Church, Detroit

Welcome

Invocation and Opening Prayer

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

Confession and Absolution

Psalm 124:8

- P** Our help is in the name of the LORD,
C who made heaven and earth.

- P** In this season of penitence and reflection, let us think of our unworthiness; confess before God that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed; and ask for His merciful forgiveness.
C **Almighty God, have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to life everlasting. Amen.**

- P** Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. 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. May the God of peace Himself sanctify you wholly; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
C Amen.

Opening Sentences

Psalm 108:1–6

- P** My heart is steadfast, O God! I will sing and make melody with all my being!
C **Awake, O harp and lyre! I will awake the dawn!**

- P** I will give thanks to You, O LORD, among the peoples; I will sing praises to You among the nations.
C **For Your steadfast love is great above the heavens; Your faithfulness reaches to the clouds.**

- P** Be exalted, O God, above the heavens! Let Your glory be over all the earth!
C **That Your beloved ones may be delivered, give salvation by Your right hand and answer me!**

Prepare the Royal Highway



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; The King of kings is near!
2 God's peo - ple, see Him com - ing: Your own e - ter - nal king!
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen To greet your prom - ised king!
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; It comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley A lev - el road ap - pear!
Palm branch - es strew be - fore Him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion Its trib - ute too should bring.
His rule is peace and free - dom And jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of Glo - ry Fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
All lands, bow down be - fore Him! All na - tions, now a - dore Him!
So let your praise be sound - ing For kind - ness so a - bound - ing:

Refrain



Ho - san - na to the Lord, For He ful - fills God's Word!

Old Testament Reading

2 Chronicles 29:25–30

²⁵And he stationed the Levites in the house of the LORD with cymbals, harps, and lyres, according to the commandment of David and of Gad the king's seer and of Nathan the prophet, for the commandment was from the LORD through his prophets. ²⁶The Levites stood with the instruments of David, and the priests with the trumpets. ²⁷Then Hezekiah commanded that the burnt offering be offered on the altar. And when the burnt offering began, the song to the LORD began also, and the trumpets, accompanied by the instruments of David king of Israel. ²⁸The whole assembly worshiped, and the singers sang and the trumpeters sounded. All this continued until the burnt offering was finished. ²⁹When the offering was finished, the king and all who were present with him bowed themselves and worshiped. ³⁰And Hezekiah the king and the officials commanded the Levites to sing praises to the LORD with the words of David and of Asaph the seer. And they sang praises with gladness, and they bowed down and worshiped.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm 29

- P** Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.
- C** **Ascribe to the LORD the glory due His name; worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness.**
- I** *The voice of the LORD is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the LORD, over many waters.*
- II** *The voice of the LORD is powerful; the voice of the LORD is full of majesty.*
- I** *The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars; the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon. He makes Lebanon to skip like a calf, and Sirion like a young wild ox.*
- II** *The voice of the LORD flashes forth flames of fire.*
- I** *The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.*
- II** *The voice of the LORD makes the deer give birth and strips the forests bare, and in His temple all cry, "Glory!"*
- P** The LORD sits enthroned over the flood; the LORD sits enthroned as king forever.
- C** **May the LORD give strength to His people! May the LORD bless His people with peace! 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.**

Epistle

Philippians 4:4-5

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand;

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Now Sing We, Now Rejoice



1 Now sing we, now re - joice, Now raise to heav'n our voice;
2 Come from on high to me; I can - not rise to Thee.



He from whom joy stream - eth Poor in a man - ger lies;
Cheer my wea - ried spir - it, O pure and ho - ly Child;



Not so bright - ly beam - eth The sun in yon - der skies.
Through Thy grace and mer - it, Blest Je - sus, Lord most mild,



Thou my Sav - ior art! Thou my Sav - ior art!
Draw me un - to Thee! Draw me un - to Thee!

Holy Gospel

Luke 1:39–45

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

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

³⁹In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, ⁴⁰and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, ⁴²and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! ⁴³And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon – "Rejoice, the Lord Is At Hand!" *based on Philipians 4:4-5 and Luke 1:39-45.*

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

P You, Lord, are our peace and our joy. The advent of Jesus brings us hope. In thanksgiving for Your goodness to us, we pray for peace among nations, peace between peoples, and peace in our hearts.

ALL – You, Lord, gather us together as Your people, calling us to worship You and to live out the Gospel by blessing our neighbors in our community. Guide us by Your Holy Spirit to fulfill what You would have us do in this world.

P You, Lord, provide leaders to our nation, our state, and our city. Guide all public servants to serve with integrity and to make laws and policies that promote human flourishing.

ALL – You, Lord, came to us as a humble servant, a vulnerable baby born into an often hostile world. Guide us to clothe ourselves with humility, gentleness, and kindness, and not to succumb to the frequently hostile ways of the world in which we live.

P You, Lord, created all that exists and entrust us to be good stewards of it. Help us to care for Your creation in wise and responsible ways.

ALL – You, Lord, never leave nor forsake those in any kind of need or trouble. Comfort those who suffer or mourn. Use us to bring Your presence and Your care to all in danger or need.

P Almighty God, Judge and King, You sent John the Baptist to prepare the way for Your coming. Come, Lord Jesus, with Your grace, and fill us with Your Holy Spirit. Inhabit our lives and our dreams so that we may live as Your people in the world. Give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which Your Son, Jesus Christ, came to visit us in great humility, that on the Last Day, when He will come again in majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to life immortal; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

Luther's Evening Prayer

C I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. 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.

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus



1 Come, Thou long - ex - pect-ed Je-sus, Born to set Thy peo-ple free;
2 Born Thy peo - ple to de - liv-er; Born a child and yet a king!



From our fears and sins re-lease us; Let us find our rest in Thee.
Born to reign in us for-ev - er, Now Thy gra - cious king - dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con-so - la-tion, Hope of all the earth Thou art,
By Thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it Rule in all our hearts a - lone;



Dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na-tion, Joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.
By Thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it Raise us to Thy glo - rious throne.

Benediction

- P** The almighty and merciful Lord—the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit—bless and preserve you.
C Amen.

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