



Risen Christ Lutheran Church
Sunday Worship - November 23, 2025

9:30am

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



Risen Christ Lutheran Church
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ABOUT HOLY COMMUNION – (2nd & 4th Sundays) We believe that the Lord’s Supper is not symbolic. We believe what Jesus Himself said: that His body and blood are truly present in this, His meal that He instituted 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 and you are a baptized believer who trusts in the death and resurrection of Jesus for the forgiveness of sins, and you have examined yourself, you are welcome to commune with us. Please talk to the 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 through your here! You can also take advantage of Online Giving by visiting www.RisenChrist.info

A WORD TO OUR MEMBERS AND GUESTS – Welcome and thank you for coming. Everyone please complete a Worship Card and place it in the offering plate. For Guests, Pastor will send you a welcome card and 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 people in Malachi’s day could not understand how God could allow evildoers to prosper; the disciples on Good Friday could not understand how God could let Jesus the Messiah be cruelly executed. And we wonder about the world’s state of affairs today. The people calling for Jesus’ death thought they knew what they were doing, but we know what was going on: God was bringing about the forgiveness that our Lord promised the thief on the cross next to Him, the paradise He was opening for us and all united by Baptism to His death and resurrection. Christ “is the image of the invisible God.” Seeing Him, we understand God’s eternal love. And one of these days, it will be our “today” to be with Him in paradise.

Welcome and Announcements

Invocation and Opening Sentences

Psalm 46:11; Colossians 1:13–14

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

C **Amen.**

“King of Kings”

1. In the darkness we were waiting
Without hope without light
Till from Heaven You came running
There was mercy in Your eyes
To fulfil the law and prophets
To a virgin came the Word
From a throne of endless glory
To a cradle in the dirt

***CHORUS: Praise the Father
Praise the Son
Praise the Spirit three in one
God of Glory
Majesty
Praise forever to the King of kings***

2. To reveal the kingdom coming
And to reconcile the lost
To redeem the whole creation
You did not despise the cross
For even in Your suffering
You saw to the other side
Knowing this was our salvation
Jesus for our sake You died ***CHORUS***

3. And the morning that You rose
All of heaven held its breath
Till that stone was moved for good
For the Lamb had conquered death
And the dead rose from their tombs
And the angels stood in awe
For the souls of all who'd come
To the Father are restored

4. And the Church of Christ was born
Then the Spirit lit the flame
Now this Gospel truth of old
Shall not kneel shall not faint
By His blood and in His Name
In His freedom I am free
For the love of Jesus Christ
Who has resurrected me ***CHORUS***

- P The Lord of hosts is with us;
C **the God of Jacob is our fortress.**
- P He has delivered us from the domain of darkness
C **and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son,**
P in whom we have redemption,
C **the forgiveness of sins.**

Confession and Absolution

- P Since we are confident of God's forgiveness because of Christ's sacrifice of Himself on the cross, let us confess our sins to God, our Father.
- C **Heavenly Father, we confess that by nature we regularly sin without even thinking. Our thoughts, words, and deeds reflect the world around us rather than the grace You have showered upon us. We have not loved You above all things; we have loved ourselves more than our neighbors. Without Your help, we cannot free ourselves. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, forgive us; by the power of Your Holy Spirit, renew in us clean hearts and willing minds that we glorify Your holy name each day until we see the paradise You have so graciously promised us.**
- P The promises of God are sure! By the blood of Jesus' cross He has made peace with us and reconciled us to Himself. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C **Amen.**

Kyrie

- P In the peace won for us on the cross, let us pray to the Lord.
C **Lord, have mercy.**
- P For the peace of a world that does not know Him, for the well-being of the Church whose head He is, and for the unity of all who ask Him to remember them, let us pray to the Lord.
C **Lord, have mercy.**
- P For this holy house and for all who, having seen in Jesus' sacrifice the love of the invisible God revealed, respond here in worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.
C **Lord, have mercy.**
- P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
C **Amen.**

Salutation and Prayer of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, You reign among us by the preaching of Your cross.

C **Forgive Your people their offenses that we, being governed by Your bountiful goodness, may enter at last into Your eternal paradise;**

P for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading

Malachi 3:13–18

¹³“Your words have been hard against me, says the LORD. But you say, ‘How have we spoken against you?’ ¹⁴You have said, ‘It is vain to serve God. What is the profit of our keeping his charge or of walking as in mourning before the LORD of hosts?’ ¹⁵And now we call the arrogant blessed. Evildoers not only prosper but they put God to the test and they escape.”

¹⁶Then those who feared the LORD spoke with one another. The LORD paid attention and heard them, and a book of remembrance was written before him of those who feared the LORD and esteemed his name.

¹⁷“They shall be mine, says the LORD of hosts, in the day when I make up my treasured possession, and I will spare them as a man spares his son who serves him.

¹⁸Then once more you shall see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between one who serves God and one who does not serve him.”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalms 46

¹God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.

²**Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way,
though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea,**

³though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble at its swelling.

⁴**There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.**

⁵God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved;
God will help her when morning dawns.

**⁶The nations rage, the kingdoms totter;
he utters his voice, the earth melts.**

⁷The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.

**⁸Come, behold the works of the LORD,
how he has brought desolations on the earth.**

⁹He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;
he breaks the bow and shatters the spear;
he burns the chariots with fire.

**¹⁰“Be still, and know that I am God.
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth!”**

¹¹The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.

Epistle

Colossians 1:13–20

¹³He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

¹⁵He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. ¹⁶For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. ¹⁷And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. ¹⁹For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Beautiful Savior

1. Beautiful Savior,
King of creation,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Truly I'd love Thee,
Truly I'd serve Thee,
Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.

2. Fair are the meadows,
Fair are the woodlands,
Robed in flow'rs of blooming spring;
Jesus is fairer,

Jesus is purer,
He makes our sorr'wing spirit sing.

3. Fair is the sunshine,
Fair is the moonlight,
Bright the sparkling stars on high;
Jesus shines brighter,
Jesus shines purer
Than all the angels in the sky.

4. Beautiful Savior,

Lord of the nations,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor,

Praise, adoration
Now and forevermore be Thine!

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 T of the world to come. Amen.**

Verse

Luke 23:43

P Alleluia. Truly, I say to you,
C **today you will be with Me in paradise. Alleluia.**

Holy Gospel

Luke 23:27–43

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

²⁷And there followed him a great multitude of the people and of women who were mourning and lamenting for him. ²⁸But turning to them Jesus said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. ²⁹For behold, the days are coming when they will say, 'Blessed are the barren and the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!' ³⁰Then they will begin to say to the mountains, 'Fall on us,' and to the hills, 'Cover us.' ³¹For if they do these things when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?"

³²Two others, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. ³³And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁴And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." And they cast lots to divide his garments. ³⁵And the people stood by, watching, but the rulers scoffed at him, saying, "He saved

others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!" ³⁶The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine ³⁷and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" ³⁸There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

³⁹One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!" ⁴⁰But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation?" ⁴¹And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong." ⁴²And he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." ⁴³And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon for the Last Sunday of the Church Year *based on Luke 23:27-43*

Regular 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 for all people around the world, for the Church wherever it is found, and for ourselves in our daily living as God's people.

To our eyes, heavenly Father, arrogant and evil people get rewarded in this fallen world at the expense of those who would try to remain true to Your will and rule in their lives. Hear the cries of those who call to You for justice, human rights, and dignity. Grant them an increase of faith and hope as they long to see Your gracious plans come to fruition.

C **Remember them, O Lord, in Your kingdom, and hear our prayer.**

P At times it is difficult, O Holy Spirit, to recognize the growth of the Church, either in numbers or in steadfast faith. Where the Church has been part of society for ages, church buildings are put to other uses and attendance is sparse at worship services. Hear the prayers rising to You from Your Church, and by Your Word cause those who do not know You to come to saving faith. Assure them that the Lord of hosts is with them.

C **Remember them, O Lord, in Your kingdom, and hear our prayer.**

P Lord over all, the world's violent weather puts travelers on land, sea, and air at risk; it calls into question each season's harvest and raises the specter of famine. Wherever people are anxious about food, clothing, or shelter, and whenever they must seek help for ills of any kind, be their refuge and strength, a present help in trouble. [*We include those near and dear to us . . .*] Visit, relieve, console,

and strengthen them as fits Your gracious plans.

C **Remember them, O Lord, in Your kingdom, and hear our prayer.**

P Lord Jesus, without Your aid, faith can grow cold, questions about Your love and mercy can arise, and the problems in front of our eyes can seem more real than Your abiding presence. O image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation, renew strong faith and urgent love in us and all Your brothers and sisters in the faith so that we each hear for ourselves the clear promise of paradise You announced from the throne of the cross. Strengthen us for joyful service in Your kingdom.

C **Remember us, O Lord, in Your kingdom, and hear our prayer.**

P These and any other things You would have us ask of You, heavenly Father, grant to us for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, in whose name we pray.

C **Amen.**

Preface

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

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 T 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 T 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.**

Communion

O Come to the Altar

1. Are you hurting and broken within
Overwhelmed by the weight of your sin
Jesus is calling
Have you come to the end of yourself
Do you thirst for a drink from the well
Jesus is calling

***CHORUS: O come to the altar
The Father's arms are open wide
Forgiveness was bought with
The precious blood of Jesus Christ***

2. Leave behind your regrets and mistakes
Come today there's no reason to wait
Jesus is calling
Bring your sorrows and trade them for joy
From the ashes a new life is born
Jesus is calling ***CHORUS***

BRIDGE: Oh what a Savior
Isn't he wonderful
Sing alleluia Christ is risen
Bow down before him
For he is Lord of all
Sing alleluia Christ is risen ***CHORUS***

ENDING: Bear your cross as you wait for the crown
Tell the world of the treasure you've found

It is Well with My Soul

1. When peace like a river
 Attendeth my way
When sorrows like sea billows roll
 Whatever my lot
Thou hast taught me to say
 It is well
 It is well with my soul

CHORUS: It is well with my soul
It is well
It is well with my soul

2. Tho' Satan should buffet
 Tho' trials should come
Let this blest assurance control
 That Christ hath regarded
 My helpless estate
And hath shed His own blood
 For my soul

3. My sin O the joy
 Of this glorious tho't
My sin not in part but the whole
 Is nailed to the cross
 And I bear it no more
 Praise the Lord
Praise the Lord O my soul ***CHORUS***

4. And Lord haste the day
When my faith shall be sight
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll
 The trump shall resound
And the Lord shall descend
 Even so it is well
With my soul ***CHORUS***

Closing Prayer

Who You Say I Am

1. Who am I that the highest King
Would welcome me
I was lost but He brought me in
Oh His love for me
Oh His love for me

**CHORUS 1: Who the Son sets free
Oh is free indeed
I'm a child of God
Yes I am**

2. Free at last
He has ransomed me
His grace runs deep
While I was a slave to sin
Jesus died for me
Yes He died for me

**CHORUS 2: Who the Son sets free
Oh is free indeed
I'm a child of God
Yes I am**

***In my Father's house
There's a place for me
I'm a child of God
Yes I am***

**BRIDGE: I am chosen not forsaken
I am who You say I am
You are for me not against me
I am who You say I am CHORUS 2**

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Benediction

Based on Colossians 1:13–20

P The blessings of God Almighty—the Father,
C **who delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins,**

P the T Son,
C **through whom the Father reconciled to Himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of His cross,**

P and the Holy Spirit,
C **who has called us to faith in the Son, the Head of the Body, the Church,**

P be upon you, now and forever.
C **Amen.**

Dismissal

P Go in peace as you serve the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God!**

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