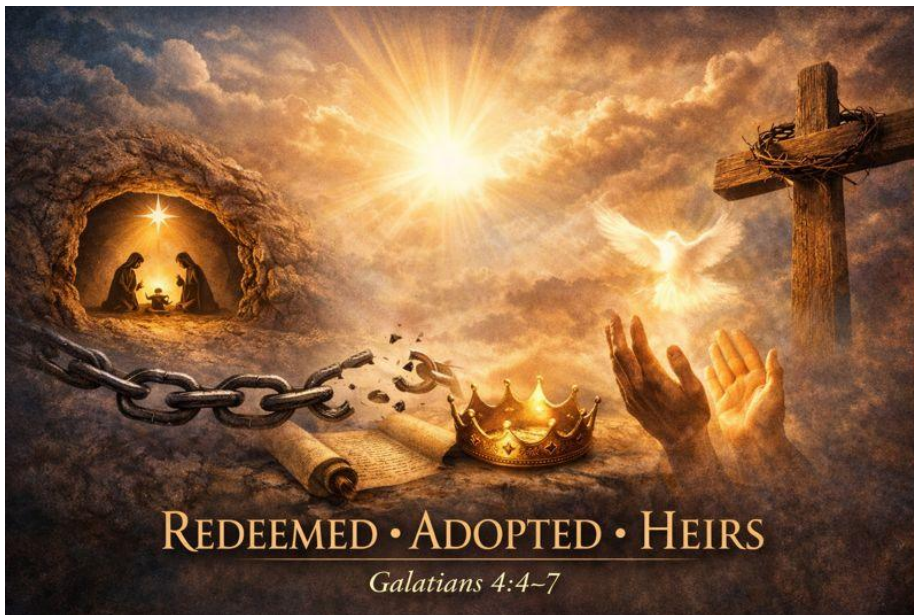




Risen Christ Lutheran Church  
First Sunday After Christmas  
December 28, 2025 9:30am

**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**



**GUEST PASTOR TODAY – WELCOME REV. SAM WATTERS**

*Risen Christ Lutheran Church*  
46250 Ann Arbor Road Plymouth, MI 48170  
734.453.5252 [www.risenchrist.info](http://www.risenchrist.info)

**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](http://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 stores are processing gift returns, but we dare not return our greatest Christmas gift—our Lord Jesus! God is gracious and forgiving, remembering His promises. He leads us, as we hear He did for the Israelites in the Old Testament Reading. We need no one else, as we are God’s dear children, which Paul reminds us in the Epistle. It is not that we do not have enemies—even Joseph had to figure out what to do—but we have Jesus with us. It is still Christmas.

## Welcome and Announcements

### Invocation

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

### Psalm 111:1–10

- P** Praise the LORD!  
I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart,
- C** **in the company of the upright, in the congregation.**
- P** Great are the works of the LORD,
- C** **studied by all who delight in them.**
- P** Full of splendor and majesty is His work,
- C** **and His righteousness endures forever.**

- P** He has caused His wondrous works to be remembered;  
**C** **the LORD is gracious and merciful.**
- P** He provides food for those who fear Him;  
**C** **He remembers His covenant forever.**
- P** He has shown His people the power of His works,  
**C** **in giving them the inheritance of the nations.**

### 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. Sing choirs of angels  
 Sing in exultation  
 O sing all ye citizens  
 of heav'n above  
 Glory to God all  
 Glory in the highest **REFRAIN**

3. Yea Lord we greet Thee  
 Born this happy morning  
 Jesus to Thee be all glory giv'n  
 Word of the Father  
 Now in flesh appearing **REFRAIN**

### Confession and Absolution

*Galatians 4:4; Isaiah 63:14*

- P** O Lord God, we confess that although we usually prepare for, as Paul put it, "the fullness of time," that is not true in our personal lives.
- C** **Forgive our impatience for taking matters into our own hands, forgive our not trusting that You are in control of all things, and forgive our failing to acknowledge You above all else.**
- P** We confess, O Lord, that unlike obedient Joseph, we have not always listened to Your commands and instructions.
- C** **Forgive our desire to be in control, forgive our avoiding difficult decisions, and forgive our thinking that we are able to arrange all things for our own benefit.**
- P** We confess, O Lord, that we have kept our faith to ourselves.
- C** **Forgive us for not giving Your leading us "a glorious name," forgive our failure to ask You for guidance each day, and forgive our seeking to be like everyone else, rather than trusting You.**
- P** Forgiveness has been won for you! The babe born in Bethlehem is the only-begotten Son of God and your elder Brother. The Spirit urges you to cry, "Abba! Father!" As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.**

## Introit for Christmas 1

*Jeremiah 31:15–17; antiphon: Hosea 11:1*

### **ALL – When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called My son.**

- P** Thus says the LORD: “A voice is heard in Ramah, lamentation and bitter weeping. Rachel is weeping for her children; she refuses to be comforted for her children, because they are no more.”  
Thus says the LORD: “Keep your voice from weeping, and your eyes from tears, for there is a reward for your work, declares the LORD, and they shall come back from the land of the enemy.  
There is hope for your future, declares the Lord, and your children shall come back to their own country.”

### **ALL – 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.**

#### **When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called My son.**

## Salutation and Prayer of the Day

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

O God, our Maker and Redeemer, You wonderfully created us and in the incarnation of Your Son yet more wondrously restored our human nature.

### **C Grant that we may ever be alive in Him who made Himself to be like us;**

- P** through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**C** **Amen.**

## 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.        |
| 3 Now through His Son doth shine | The Fa - ther's grace di - vine. |
| 4 Oh, where shall joy be found?  | Where but on heav'n - ly ground? |



- |                                |                               |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| He from whom joy stream - eth  | Poor in a man - ger lies;     |
| Cheer my wea - ried spir - it, | O pure and ho - ly Child;     |
| Death was reign - ing o'er us  | Through sin and van - i - ty  |
| Where the an - gels sing - ing | With all His saints u - nite, |



Not so bright - ly beam - eth The sun in yon - der skies.  
 Through Thy grace and mer - it, Blest Je - sus, Lord most mild,  
 Till He o - pened for us A bright e - ter - ni - ty.  
 Sweet - est prais - es bring - ing In heav'n - ly joy and light.



Thou my Sav - ior art! Thou my Sav - ior art!  
 Draw me un - to Thee! Draw me un - to Thee!  
 May we praise Him there! May we praise Him there!  
 Oh, that we were there! Oh, that we were there!

### Old Testament Reading

*Isaiah 63:7–14*

<sup>7</sup>I will recount the steadfast love of the LORD, the praises of the LORD, according to all that the LORD has granted us, and the great goodness to the house of Israel that he has granted them according to his compassion, according to the abundance of his steadfast love.

<sup>8</sup>For he said, "Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely."  
 And he became their Savior.

<sup>9</sup>In all their affliction he was afflicted, and the angel of his presence saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

<sup>10</sup>But they rebelled and grieved his Holy Spirit; therefore he turned to be their enemy, and himself fought against them.

<sup>11</sup>Then he remembered the days of old, of Moses and his people.  
 Where is he who brought them up out of the sea with the shepherds of his flock?  
 Where is he who put in the midst of them his Holy Spirit,

<sup>12</sup>who caused his glorious arm to go at the right hand of Moses, who divided the waters before them to make for himself an everlasting name,  
<sup>13</sup>who led them through the depths? Like a horse in the desert, they did not stumble.

<sup>14</sup>Like livestock that go down into the valley, the Spirit of the LORD gave them rest.  
 So you led your people, to make for yourself a glorious name.

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

### 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,
- C** **Mighty God,**
- P** Everlasting Father,
- C** **Prince of Peace.**
- P** Sing to the LORD a new song,
- C** **for He has done marvelous things!**

## Epistle *(Today's sermon is based on these verses.)*

Galatians 4:4–7

<sup>4</sup>When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup>to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. <sup>6</sup>And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" <sup>7</sup>So 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.**

## Verse

Luke 2:30, 32

**P** Alleluia.

**C** **My eyes have seen Your salvation; a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to Your people Israel.**

**P** Alleluia.

## Holy Gospel

Matthew 2:13–23

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

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

<sup>13</sup>When [the wise men] had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." <sup>14</sup>And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt <sup>15</sup>and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt I called my son."

<sup>16</sup>Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men. <sup>17</sup>Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah:

<sup>18</sup>"A voice was heard in Ramah,  
weeping and loud lamentation,  
Rachel weeping for her children;  
she refused to be comforted, because they are no more."

<sup>19</sup>But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, <sup>20</sup>saying, "Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead." <sup>21</sup>And he rose and took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. <sup>22</sup>But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. <sup>23</sup>And he went and lived in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled: "He shall be called a Nazarene."

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

## Angels from the Realms of Glory



1 An - gels from the realms of glo - ry, Wing your flight o'er  
2 Shep - herds in the field a - bid - ing, Watch - ing o'er your  
3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, Bright - er vi - sions  
4 Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, Watch - ing long in  
△ 5 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God the Fa - ther,



all the earth; Ye who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,  
flocks by night, God with us is now re - sid - ing,  
beam a - far; Seek the great De - sire of na - tions,  
hope and fear, Sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing,  
Spir - it, Son, Ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing



Now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth.  
Yon - der shines the In - fant Light.  
Ye have seen His na - tal star.  
In His tem - ple shall ap - pear.  
To the e - ter - nal Three in One.

### *Refrain*



Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship;



Wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

## Sermon based on Galatians 4:4-7...

*by guest Pr. Sam Watters from St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Westland*

## Nicene Creed

- ☐ 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.**

**Regular 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**

**P** Let us go to our heavenly Father in prayer.

For the church, that the news of Christ's birth among us would bring joy to many people, let us pray to the Lord.

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For those who have rebelled against all that our caring God has lavished upon them and that He would open their hearts and minds, let us pray to the Lord.

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For those who have not heard about Jesus' birth, about our Savior's willingness to be a servant of the Most High, or about their own salvation, that God would surround them with people of faith and the Gospel Good News, let us pray to the Lord.

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For all who tend fields, raise animals, distribute food, or work in supermarkets and roadside stands, that they recognize that they work to alleviate hunger and do what pleases our heavenly Father, let us pray to the Lord.

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For the leaders of the nations, those who bear arms, and all who run toward harm to help those who need aid and rescue, that they stop at nothing to establish and maintain peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For those near and dear to us, [*especially...*], that God would alleviate suffering and pain, sadness and grief in their lives, let us pray to the Lord.

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** Into Your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy for the sake of our elder Brother and Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**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.

## **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  $\text{✠}$  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  $\text{✠}$  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 (sung by Miss Esther Kaufmann)**

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

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

**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**

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

CCLI Song # 7051511  
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## 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 wond'ring love.  
O morning stars, together  
Proclaim the holy birth,  
And praises sing to God the king  
And peace to all the earth!

3. How silently, how silently  
The wondrous gift is giv'n!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
The blessings of His heav'n.  
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 Immanuel!

### Post-Communion Thanksgiving

**P** Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this gracious gift.

**G** **Strengthen us through it that we may live each day in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another;**

**P** through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**G** **Amen.**

## Joy to the World



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive her  
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let men their songs em -  
3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow Nor thorns in - fest the  
4 He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the na - tions



King; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare Him  
ploy, While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and  
ground; He comes to make His bless - ings  
prove The glo - ries of His righ - teous -



room And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture  
plains Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing  
flow Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is  
ness And won - ders of His love, And won - ders of His



sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.  
joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
found, Far as, far as the curse is found.  
love, And won - ders, won - ders of His love.

## 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.

## Dismissal

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

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