



Risen Christ Lutheran Church
Christmas Eve Worship
December 24, 2025 4:30pm & 7pm

**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
46250 Ann Arbor Road Plymouth, MI 48170
734.453.5252 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

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.

Tonight’s Christmas Eve Message *will be interwoven through the responsive readings, prayers, hymns, and songs.*

Special Reading – **“Prince of Peace”** *read by Kim Cook at 4:30pm & Esther Kaufmann at 7pm*

Welcome

Joy to the World

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1. Joy to the world! The Lord is come
Let earth receive her King
Let every heart prepare Him room
And heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing
And heaven and heaven and nature sing.</p> | <p>2. Joy to the world! The Savior reigns
Let men their songs employ
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy</p> |
| <p>3. He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of his love, and wonders of His love
And wonders, wonders of His love</p> | |

Invocation and Opening Words

☞ In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit. ☞ Amen.

P The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

C **The light of Christ shines among us.**

P The Word became flesh and dwelt among us. **C** **And we have seen His glory.**

P Jesus Christ is the light of the world, **C** **the light no darkness can overcome.** [John 8:12; John 1:5]

God Promises a Savior – Reading *Isaiah 9:6-7*

⁶For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore.

The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Message by *Pastor Rennie*

O Come O Come Emmanuel

1. O come O come Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear
Rejoice rejoice Emmanuel
Shall come to Thee O Israel

2. O come thou day-spring come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night
And death's dark shadows put to flight
Rejoice rejoice Emmanuel
Shall come to thee O Israel

3. O come, Thou Wisdom from on high,
And order all things, far and nigh;
To us the path of knowledge show,
And cause us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

4. O come, Desire of nations, bind
All peoples in one heart and mind;
Bid envy, strife and quarrels cease;
Fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

God Acts in Humility – Reading *Matthew 1:18*

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit.

Message *continued...*

Solo – “Be Born in Me”

God Announces Good News of Great Joy – Reading *Luke 2:1-14*

¹In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

⁹And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. ¹⁰And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

C ¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

Message *continued...*

Angels We Have Heard on High

1. Angels we have heard on high Sweetly singing o'er the plains And the mountains in reply Echo back their joyous strains Glo-----ria, inexcelsis Deo Glo-----ria, inexcelsis Deo	2. Shepherds, why this jubilee Why your joyous strains prolong What the gladsome tidings be Which inspire your heav'nly song Glo-----ria, inexcelsis Deo Glo-----ria, inexcelsis Deo
3. Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing Come adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King Glo-----ria, inexcelsis Deo Glo-----ria, inexcelsis Deo	

God is Received By Faith – Reading *Luke 2:15-20*

¹⁵When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. ¹⁷And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. ¹⁸And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

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

Message *continued...*

Solo – "Breath of Heaven"

The Second Article of the Apostles' Creed *and its meaning from Luther's Small Catechism*

ALL – 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.

P What does this mean?

ALL – I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man,

born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.

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.

God Forgives and Feeds – Confession, Absolution, and Communion

P In the presence of God, who has come near to us in Christ, let us confess our sin.

(Silence)

Penitential Prayer and Forgiveness

P When we allow darkness to overcome the light, forgive us, Lord.

MEN – When we reduce Christmas to plastic and tinsel, have mercy on us, Father.

WOMEN – When hardness of heart keeps us from seeing and hearing and touching the needs of others, let your grace consume us, O God.

MEN – When the wars around us are of no concern, forgive us, Lord, and move us to compassion for those who suffer.

WOMEN – When our caring is not extended to action, move us to seek Biblical Justice and Biblical Love for our fellow man.

ALL – **We come to confess our sinfulness before You and before each other. Remove all barriers that divide us and let there be no obstacle to our love for You and for one another. Amen.**

All pray in silence.

P Hear the good news of Christmas: Unto you is born a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

In Him, your sins are forgiven, in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen. Glory to God in the highest!

Lift Up Your Hearts

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

All Sing

We lift them to the Lord

Let us give thanks

To the Lord our God

It is right to give Him

Thanks and praise

Prayer

P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. In Jesus the eternal, endless light of life has shined to give all who believe eternal, endless life. Let His saving light shine in us this night and all our days. By His body and blood make us heirs in the family of God. **C Amen.**

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 † body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."
- P** 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 † 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

Away In a Manger

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| <p>1. Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.</p> | <p>2. The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.
I love Thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.</p> |
| <p>3. Be near me, Lord Jesus! I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven, to live with Thee there.</p> | |

O Little Town of Bethlehem

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| <p>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.</p> | <p>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!</p> |
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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 to day.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Immanuel!

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

1. Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With the-angelic host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"

2. Christ, by highest heav'n adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold Him come,
Offspring of a virgin's womb,
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,
Hail the-incarnate Deity!
Pleased as Man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Immanuel!
Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"

3. Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings,
Ris'n with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by,
Born that man to nore may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth,
Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"

Prayer

P Lord, thank you for meeting us where we are here in Your meal. Thank you for setting us free. Heal us from our past and direct our steps as we walk into the future. Please restore our families and protect our children. Overcome all the ways we dishonor You and invade us with Your forgiveness and love. Let us see You. Give us vision and faith to live lives of purpose. Drive a passion for the lost deep within the hearts of Your people. Let Your grace and mercy flow from us into all our relationships and to all those we encounter. May we always and ever honor and worship the Saviour, Jesus Christ. The living Son of God, the Baby in the Manger, the Risen and Conquering King! Come let us adore Him!

G O Come let us adore Him!

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***

Closing Message by Pr. Rennie

Lighting of the Candles (During following song) **"Here With Us"**

(After Candles are lit)

Silent Night, Holy Night

1. Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

2. Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heav'nly hosts sing, Alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born!

3. Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

Benediction

P "The Lord your God is with you, He is mighty to save.
He will take great delight in you, He will quiet you with his love,
He will rejoice over you with singing." (Zephaniah 3.17)

Christ is born. May the hope and the love and the joy and the peace be with you now and forever.

C Amen.

Carefully place hand in front of candle and gently blow it out.

Merry Christmas. Go with God.