

*You will conceive  
and give birth  
to a son,  
and you  
are to  
call him  
Jesus.*



Luke 1:31

## God Reveals His Son!

### Resurrection Lutheran Church

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Pastor Nathan Strutz - Pastor Andrew Ewings - Vicar Jon Fleischmann  
608.515.4334                      608.535.6531                      507.440.6840

## Welcome to Resurrection!

**W**e extend a warm welcome to each one present. As we unite together in worship, may we experience together the grace and mercy of our God through his life-giving Word and sacraments. Guests, below is some information that may help us host you well in the Lord's house. Please let us know if we can assist you in any way.



**Fourth Sunday in Advent  
December 20, 2020**

## Visitor Information

**W**orship at Resurrection Lutheran Church follows the historic liturgy of the Church. Our worship service is designed to give our Savior thanks for the salvation He won for us. Lutheran worship is really a conversation between God and his people. He speaks to us in His Word; we praise Him and respond to Him in song. We confess our sins and needs; He provides the forgiveness Jesus accomplished at the cross, and helps us with our individual needs.

**W**orship will follow the service folder, guiding us in our dialogue with the Lord. Feel free to participate at whatever level you are comfortable. Whenever the words are printed in bold, the congregation is welcome to join in responding or singing. May God bless us as we place Him at the center of our worship.

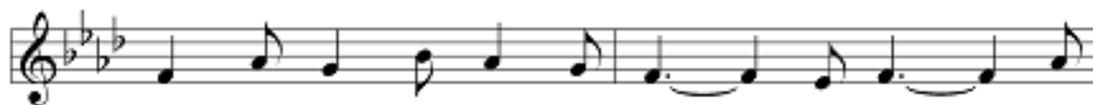
Preacher: Pastor Nathan Strutz  
Leader: Vicar Jon Fleischmann  
Pianist: Kathy Delikat  
Cantor: Kathi Appelt

✘ WELCOME ✘

OPENING HYMN: 24 “The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came”



1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came, His  
 2 “I come from heav’n to tell the Lord’s de - cree: A  
 3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head; “To  
 4 Of her Im - man - u - el, the Christ, was born In



wings as drift - ed snow, his eyes as flame; “All  
 bless - ed vir - gin moth - er you shall be. Your  
 me be as it pleas - es God,” she said. “My  
 Beth - le - hem, all on a Christ - mas morn, And



hail,” said he to meek and low - ly Mar - y, “Most  
 Son shall be Im - man - u - el, by seers fore - told, Most  
 soul shall praise and mag - ni - fy his ho - ly name.” Most  
 Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say, “Most



high - ly fa - vored maid - en.” Glo - ri - a!  
 high - ly fa - vored maid - en.” Glo - ri - a!  
 high - ly fa - vored maid - en, Glo - ri - a!  
 high - ly fa - vored maid - en.” Glo - ri - a!

Text: Basque carol, paraphrase Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834–1924, alt.  
 Tune: GABRIEL’S MESSAGE (10 10 12 10) Basque carol.

## INVOCATION

**Leader:** The grace of our Lord ✠ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

**People:** And also with you.

## CONFESSION OF SINS

**Leader:** God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

**All:** Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

**Leader:** God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

**People:** Amen.

## PRAYER AND PRAISE

**Leader:** The works of the Lord are great and glorious; his name is worthy of praise.

### O LORD, OUR LORD

**All:**

O Lord, our Lord, how glo - rious is your name in  
all the earth. Al - might - y God, mer - ci - ful Fa - ther,  
you crown our life with your love. You take a - way our sin;



you com - fort our spir - it; you make us pure and



ho - ly in your sight. You did not spare your on - ly Son,



but gave him up for us all. O Lord, our Lord,



how glo - rious is your name in all the earth.



O Son of God, e - ter - nal Word of the Fa - ther,



you came to live with us; you made your Fa - ther known;



you washed us from our sins in your own blood. You are the



King of glo - ry; you are the Lord! O Lord, our Lord,



how glo - rious is your name in all the earth.

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Take away the burden of our sins and make us ready for the celebration of your birth, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

### **✠ THE WORD ✠**

#### **FIRST LESSON: 2 SAMUEL 7:8-16**

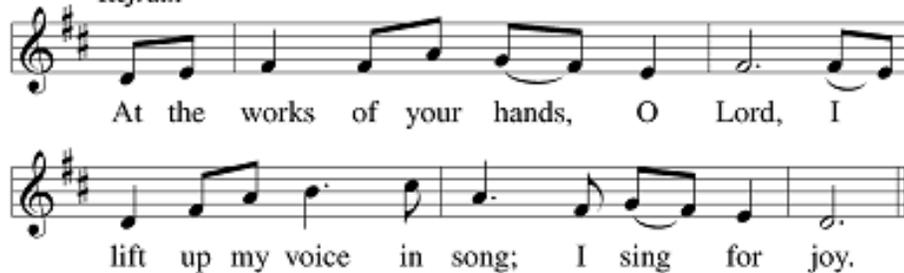
**NIV**

<sup>8</sup>“Now then, tell my servant David, “This is what the LORD Almighty says: I took you from the pasture, from tending the flock, and appointed you ruler over my people Israel. <sup>9</sup>I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have cut off all your enemies from before you. Now I will make your name great, like the names of the greatest men on earth. <sup>10</sup>And I will provide a place for my people Israel and will plant them so that they can have a home of their own and no longer be disturbed. Wicked people will not oppress them anymore, as they did at the beginning <sup>11</sup>and have done ever since the time I appointed leaders over my people Israel. I will also give you rest from all your enemies.

“The LORD declares to you that the LORD himself will establish a house for you: <sup>12</sup>When your days are over and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, your own flesh and blood, and I will establish his kingdom. <sup>13</sup>He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. <sup>14</sup>I will be his father, and he will be my son. When he does wrong, I will punish him with a rod wielded by men, with floggings inflicted by human hands. <sup>15</sup>But my love will never be taken away from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you. <sup>16</sup>Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever.”

**PSALM 84** *The cantor will sing the verses and the first refrain, the congregation will sing the remaining refrains and the bolded Doxology*

*Refrain*



At the works of your hands, O Lord, I  
lift up my voice in song; I sing for joy.

*Psalm tone*



\*

*Refrain*

I will sing of the LORD's great love forever;\*  
I will make your faithfulness known through all generations.  
I will declare that your love stands firm forever,\*  
that you established your faithfulness in heaven itself.  
The heavens praise your wonders, O LORD,\*  
your faithfulness too, in the assembly of the holy ones.

***Refrain***

O LORD God Almighty, who is like you?\*

You are mighty, O LORD, and your faithfulness surrounds you.  
Blessed are those who have learned to acclaim you,\*  
who walk in the light of your presence, O LORD.  
They rejoice in your name all day long;\*  
they exult in your righteousness.  
**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.**

***Refrain***

**SECOND LESSON & SERMON TEXT: ROMANS 16:25-27**

**NIV**

<sup>25</sup> Now to him who is able to establish you in accordance with my gospel, the message I proclaim about Jesus Christ, in keeping with the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past, <sup>26</sup> but now revealed and made known through the prophetic writings by the command of the eternal God, so that all the Gentiles might come to the obedience that comes from faith - <sup>27</sup> to the only wise God be glory forever through Jesus Christ! Amen.

**GOSPEL VERSE**

Leader: Alleluia. The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel. Alleluia. (*Matthew 1:23*)

**GOSPEL: LUKE 1:26-38**

**NIV**

<sup>26</sup> In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup> The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

<sup>29</sup> Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup> But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup> You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. <sup>32</sup> He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, <sup>33</sup> and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

<sup>34</sup> "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

<sup>35</sup> The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. <sup>36</sup> Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. <sup>37</sup> For no word from God will ever fail."

<sup>38</sup> "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise be to you, O Christ.**

**CONFESSION OF FAITH - NICENE CREED**

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one being with the Father.**

**Through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,  
and became fully human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.**

**He suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.**

**He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

HYMN OF THE DAY: 23 “Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel”



1 Oh, come, oh, come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som cap - tive  
2 Oh, come, O Root of Jes - se, free Your own from Sa - tan's  
3 Oh, come, O Day-spring from on high, And cheer us by your  
4 Oh, come, O Key of Da - vid, come, And o - pen wide our



Is - ra - el That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here  
tyr - an - ny; From depths of hell your peo - ple save,  
draw - ing nigh; Dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night,  
heav'n - ly home. Make safe the way that leads on high,



Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
And bring them vic - t'ry o'er the grave. Re-joyce! Re-joyce!  
And death's dark shad - ows put to flight.  
And close the path to mis - er - y.



Em - man - u - el Shall come to you, O Is - ra - el!

Text: Latin hymn, c. 12th century, abr.; tr. John M. Neale, 1818-66, alt.  
Tune: VENI, EMMANUEL (LM with Refrain) Plainsong melody, 15th century, alt.

**SERMON: PASTOR NATHAN STRUTZ**

**BASED ON: ROMANS 16:25-27**

**God Reveals His Son!**

**Questions to consider while hearing the sermon:**

1. What more important thing than gender did God reveal?
2. What does the word, “gospel” mean?
3. What’s the idea behind the words, “message”, and “proclaim”?
4. How do we take the message for granted?
5. In what special way does Christmas reveal Christ?
6. What is a mystery?
7. What do we need to hear when the bah humbugs creep into our hearts?
8. What’s one key way God brought the mystery into the light?
9. What does God want for all ethnicities? What do we want?
10. So now what? What do we do now?

**For further discussion/Vine and Branches**

1. Discuss a teaching of the Bible that had to be revealed to you, that you would never have figured out on your own.
2. Do you agree with the assertion, “The Bible is the most anti-racist book in the world”?
3. Talk about ways to give God glory in these days of preparation for Christmas.

## **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

**Leader:** Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

O Most High, you have favored us in the incarnation of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, Son of Mary. Give us faith to believe that nothing is impossible with you, and so to pray boldly in childlike confidence. Lord, in your mercy,

**People:** **hear our prayer.**

**Leader:** O Most High, you have revealed in Christ Jesus the mystery kept secret for long ages, now made known to all nations through the prophetic and apostolic Scriptures. According to your eternal command, give us faithful preachers of your Gospel to bring about the obedience of faith. Strengthen your Holy Church in every place. Lord, in your mercy,

**People:** **hear our prayer.**

**Leader:** O Most High, hear our prayers on behalf of our nation, its president, all legislators and judges, and those newly elected to serve. Preserve their lives and guide their actions for the good of our people. Give peace among the nations of the earth, and preserve us from pestilence and famine, war and bloodshed, sedition, rebellion and every evil. Lord, in your mercy,

**People:** **hear our prayer.**

**Leader:** O Most High, grant all women with child and all mothers with infant children increasing happiness in their blessings. Look with compassion on the lonely, the depressed and the despairing. Grant healing to the sick, and give peace to the anxious and dying. Comfort all who mourn with the certain hope of the resurrection. Lord, in your mercy,

**People:** **hear our prayer.**

**Leader:** We join in the Lord's Prayer:

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

**All:** **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

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**THANKSGIVING** *(With a Short Introduction)*



**ALL:** Thank the Lord and sing his praise. Tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re-joice and proud-ly bear his name.



He re-news his prom-is - es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

**PRAYER**

**Leader:** Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People:** Amen.

**BLESSING**

**Leader:** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look on you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

**People:** Amen.

**CLOSING HYMN: 41 "Let All Together Praise Our God"**

*(found on the following page)*

HYMN: 41 "Let All Together Praise Our God"



1 Let all to - geth - er praise our God Be - fore his  
 2 He leaves his heav'n - ly Fa - ther's throne, Is born an  
 3 He veils in flesh his pow'r di - vine A ser - vant's  
 4 A won - drous change which he does make: He takes our  
 5 He serves that I a lord may be— A great ex -



high - est throne; To - day he o - pens heav'n a - gain And  
 in - fant small, And in a man - ger, poor and lone, Lies  
 form to take; In want and low - li - ness must die Who  
 flesh and blood, And he con - ceals for sin - ners' sake His  
 change in - deed! Could Je - sus' love do more for me To



gives us his own Son, And gives us his own Son.  
 in a hum - ble stall, Lies in a hum - ble stall.  
 heav'n and earth did make, Who heav'n and earth did make.  
 maj - es - ty as God, His maj - es - ty as God.  
 help me in my need, To help me in my need?

6 For us he opens wide the door  
 Of paradise today.  
 The angel guards the gate no more;  
 To God our thanks we pay,  
 To God our thanks we pay.

Text: Nikolaus Herman, c. 1480–1561, abr.; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.  
 Tune: LOBT GOTT, IHR CHRISTEN (86 866) Nikolaus Herman, c. 1480–1561.

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 Service of Word and Sacrament Copyright © 1993 Northwestern Publishing House. All rights reserved.  
 "Thank the Lord" Tune: Richard Hillert. Copyright © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*. All rights reserved. Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress.

## CHRISTMAS WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

### CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24

Verona: 3:30 pm & 6:30 pm \*  
Monroe: 3:30 pm & 7:00 pm \*

### CHRISTMAS DAY

December 25

Verona: 9:00 am  
Monroe: 10:30 am

There will be a special New Year's Eve joint service in Monroe at 7:00 pm on Thursday, December 31. Fellowship and game night will follow the service. Our plan is to have one joint worship service each year at each location. The New Year's Eve service will be in Monroe. Ascension Day service will be in Verona.

We pray members from both campuses can attend, God-willing.

*\* Both services in Verona will be the same, and both services in Monroe will be the same.*

### PLEASE NOTE:

We are making every attempt to continue to worship together as a church family. However, due to the ever-changing conditions with Covid19, we ask that you please monitor the website and our Facebook page for any changes. We will comply with all government mandates as they are issued & modify our gatherings accordingly.

We are posting online worship opportunities each week. You will receive notification of them via email and they will also be posted on our Facebook page, our YouTube channel (The Resurrection Channel) and the websites. Resources to follow along will be included.

Your gifts of love are still needed, and can be mailed to the main office: Attention Treasurer, 6705 Wesner Rd, Verona, WI 53593. You also may contribute through your bank's bill-pay service & they will mail the check for you. Or, you may contribute online by contacting the office to obtain the form to do so: [ministrycoordinator@rlcverona.com](mailto:ministrycoordinator@rlcverona.com).