

**RESURRECTION EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH**



**First Sunday of Christmas
December 31, 2023
10:00AM**

*Welcome to Resurrection Lutheran Church! We are glad you are here. If you are a visitor, we invite you to introduce yourself to our pastor and feel at home among us. **ELW** stands for **E**vangelical **L**utheran **W**orship, the red hymnal in our pews, and **ACS** is **A**ll **C**reation **S**ings, the blue songbook.*

The assembly gathers in seating in the nave, maintaining appropriate physical distance; wearing face masks is optional.

As we gather

Notes on our worship today:

The psalmist calls on the natural world, celestial bodies, fire and earth, creatures, and all humanity, to praise God. The voices of Simeon and 84-year-old Anna join the chorus today, recognizing what God is doing in Jesus. Simeon's song is often sung after communion, for we have seen God's salvation in the assembled community and have held Jesus in our hands in the bread. Then, like the prophet Anna, we tell of Jesus to all who look for the healing of the world.

Opening Voluntary: "In Peace and Joy I Now Depart" JS Bach

Confession and Forgiveness

At ringing of a bell, the assembly stands and faces the font. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,
who looks upon us in compassion,
forgives our sin,
and heals our lives.
Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Have mercy, O God,
against you, you alone,
we have sinned.
In your compassion,
cleanse us from our sin
and take away our guilt.
Create in us a new heart
and give us a steadfast spirit.
Do not cast us away,
but fill us with your Holy Spirit
and restore your joy within us.
Amen.

As tender as parent to child,
so deep is God's compassion for you.
As high as heaven is above earth,
so vast is God's love for you.
As far as east is from west,
so far God removes your sin from you,
renewing your life through Jesus Christ.
Blessed be God who crowns us with mercy and love.
Blessed be God forever.

Gathering Hymn: "Angels, from the Realms of Glory" (ELW 275)

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
 2 Shep-herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,
 3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;
 4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,

once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
 God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light.
 seek the great de - sire of na - tions, you have seen his na - tal star.
 ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to the e - ter - nal Three in One.

Refrain

Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born king.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt., sts. 1–3; *Salisbury Hymn Book*, 1857, st. 4
 Music: REGENT SQUARE, Henry T. Smart, 1813–1879

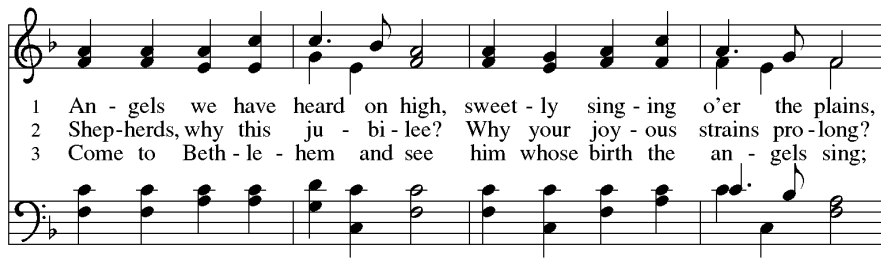
Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
 and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

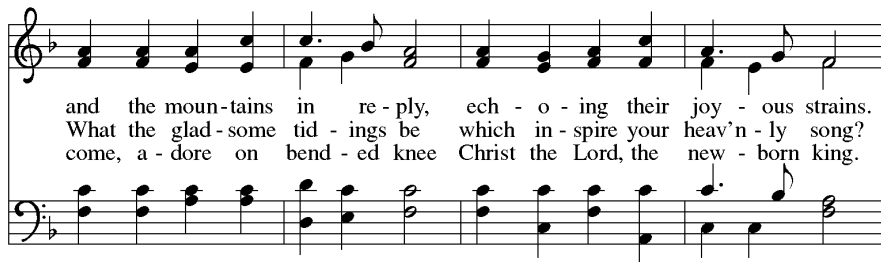
For the Gloria, we sing...

Hymn: “Angels We Have Heard on High” (ELW 289)

Angels We Have Heard on High



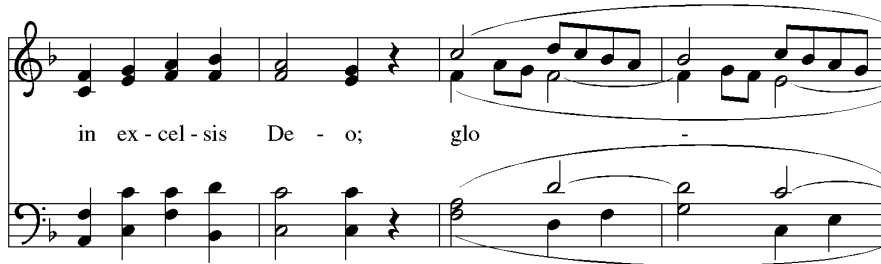
1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



and the moun - tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.



Refrain
Glo - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo -



ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Henry, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864
Music: GLORIA, French carol; arr. Edward S. Barnes, 1887-1958

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

Almighty God, you gave us your only Son to take on our human nature and to illumine the world with your light. By your grace adopt us as your children and enlighten us with your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

First Reading: Isaiah 61:10—62:3

To the people who returned to Jerusalem after the exile, the prophet proclaims that God's salvation will fully come to pass. Jerusalem will become a shining light to the nations and righteousness and praise will spring up as surely as the earth puts forth vegetation.

A reading from Isaiah.

¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the LORD;
my whole being shall exult in my God,
for God has clothed me with the garments of salvation
and has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
¹¹For as the earth brings forth its shoots
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

^{62:1}For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,
until its vindication shines out like the dawn
and its salvation like a burning torch.

²The nations shall see your vindication
and all the rulers your glory,
and you shall be called by a new name
that the mouth of the LORD will give.

³You shall be a beautiful crown in the hand of the LORD
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 148

Sung Responsively by whole verse.

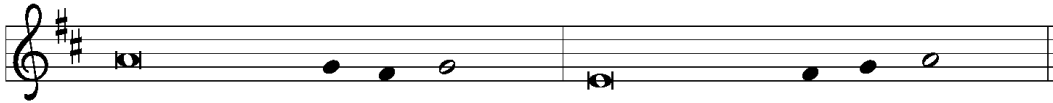
Refrain



Psalm 148:13

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Tone



Psalm tone reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year C* © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.
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- ¹Hallelujah! Praise the LORD [|] from the heavens;
praise God [|] in the heights.
- ²**Praise the LORD, [|] all you angels;
sing praise, all you [|] hosts of heaven.**
- ³Praise the LORD, [|] sun and moon;
sing praise, all you [|] shining stars.
- ⁴**Praise the LORD, heav- [|] en of heavens,
and you waters a- [|] bove the heavens.**
- ⁵Let them praise the name [|] of the LORD,
who commanded, and they [|] were created,
- ⁶**who made them stand fast forev- [|] er and ever,
giving them a law that shall not [|] pass away. R**
- ⁷Praise the LORD [|] from the earth,
you sea monsters [|] and all deeps;
- ⁸**fire and hail, [|] snow and fog,
tempestuous wind, do- [|] ing God's will;**
- ⁹mountains [|] and all hills,
fruit trees [|] and all cedars;
- ¹⁰**wild beasts [|] and all cattle,
creeping things and [|] flying birds;**
- ¹¹sovereigns of the earth [|] and all peoples,
princes and all rulers [|] of the world;
- ¹²**young [|] men and maidens,
old and [|] young together. R**
- ¹³Let them praise the name [|] of the LORD,
whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over [|] earth and heaven.
- ¹⁴**The LORD has raised up strength for the people and praise for all [|] faithful servants,
the children of Israel, a people who are near the LORD. [|] Hallelujah! R**

Second Reading: Galatians 4:4-7

Paul seeks to show the Galatians that the purpose of Christ's birth was to liberate us from the law's condemnation so that we would be fully adopted into God's family as beloved children.

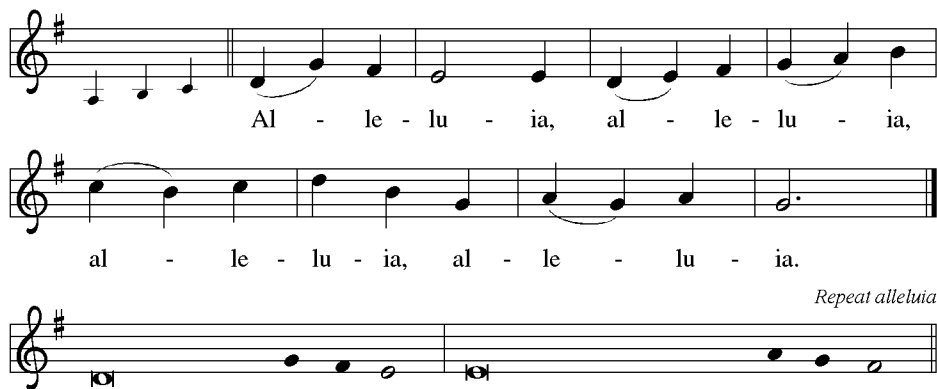
A reading from Galatians.

⁴When the fullness of time had come,
God sent the Son, born of a woman, born under the law,
⁵in order to redeem those who were under the law,
so that we might receive adoption as children.
⁶And because you are children,
God has sent the Spirit of the Son into our hearts,
crying, "Abba! Father!"
⁷So you are no longer a slave but a child,
and if a child then also an heir through God.

Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Verse sung by cantor, with assembly singing the alleluias.



Alleluia. Let the peace of Christ rule ¹ in your hearts,* and let the word of Christ dwell ¹ in you richly. *Alleluia.*

Holy Gospel: Luke 2:22-40

Luke's narrative continues with stories that emphasize Jesus' connection to Judaism. His family is devout in its observance of the law, and Jesus himself is recognized as one who will bring glory to Israel.

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²²When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses,
「Mary and Joseph」 brought 「Jesus」 up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord
²³(as it is written in the law of the Lord,
“Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”),
²⁴and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord,
“a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon;
this man was righteous and devout,
looking forward to the consolation of Israel,
and the Holy Spirit rested on him.
²⁶It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit
that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah.
²⁷Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple,
and when the parents brought in the child Jesus
to do for him what was customary under the law,
²⁸Simeon took Jesus in his arms and praised God, saying,
²⁹“Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,
according to your word;
³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation,
³¹which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
³²a light for revelation to the gentiles
and for glory to your people Israel.” ▶

³³And the child's father and mother were amazed
at what was being said about him.
³⁴Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary,
"This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel
and to be a sign that will be opposed
³⁵so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—
and a sword will pierce your own soul, too."

³⁶There was also a prophet,
Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher.
She was of a great age,
having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage,
³⁷then as a widow to the age of eighty-four.
She never left the temple
but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day.
³⁸At that moment she came and began to praise God
and to speak about the child
to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

³⁹When Mary and Joseph had finished everything
required by the law of the Lord,
they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth.
⁴⁰The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom,
and the favor of God was upon him.

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: "O Lord, Now Let Your Servant" (ELW 313)

O Lord, Now Let Your Servant

1 O Lord, now let your ser - vant de - part in heav'n-ly peace,
2 Then grant that I may fol - low your gleam, O glo - rious Light,

for I have seen the glo - ry of your re - deem - ing grace:
till earth-ly shad - ows scat - ter, and faith is changed to sight;

a light to lead the na - tions un - to your ho - ly hill,
till rap - tured saints shall gath - er up - on that shin - ing shore,

the glo - ry of your peo - ple, your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
where Christ, the bless - ed day - star, shall light them ev - er - more.

Text: Ernest E. Ryden, 1886–1981, alt.
Music: KUORTANE, Finnish folk tune; arr. hymnal version
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Nicene Creed

With the whole church, let us confess our faith:

**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 truly 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 with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic 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.**

Prayers of Intercession

The response for today's intercessions is "Give strength to your people."

The presiding minister concludes the prayers:

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

The assembly greets each other with Christ's Peace by bowing to each other, waving, or offering another appropriate gesture. For continued safety, please refrain from handshakes and hugs.

Offertory

Offering and Setting the Table

While the table is set for Holy Communion, members of the assembly may prepare to bring their offering forward when ushers invite them to come to the chancel where baskets are available to receive your gift. Communion ministers will sanitize and cleanse their hands prior to handling the gifts of bread and wine.

Offering Prayer

Let us pray.

Good and loving God, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be blessing for others. With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Dialogue and Preface

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The musical score is written for a single voice part in G major (one sharp). It consists of four staves. The first staff contains the lyrics 'The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.' The second staff contains 'Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.' The third staff contains 'Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.' The fourth staff contains 'It is right to give our thanks and praise.' The melody is simple and hymn-like, using a mix of quarter, eighth, and half notes with various phrasing slurs.

It is indeed right, our du - ty and our joy,

that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you,

al-mighty and merciful God, through our Sav - ior Je - sus Christ.

In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened

the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vis - ion of your glo - ry,

that be - holding the God made vis - i - ble,

we may be drawn to love the God whom we can - not see.

And so, with all the choirs of an - gels,

with the church on earth and the hosts of heav - en,

we praise your name and join their un - end - ing hymn:

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Holy, Holy, Holy (Setting One, ELW page 108)

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Thanksgiving at Table XI

We give you thanks, Father,
through Jesus Christ, your beloved Son,
whom you sent in this end of the ages
to save and redeem us and to proclaim to us your will.

He is your Word, inseparable from you,
through whom you created all things,
and in whom you take delight.
He is your Word, sent from heaven to a virgin's womb.
He there took on our nature and our lot
and was shown forth as your Son,
born of the Holy Spirit and of the virgin Mary.
He, our Lord Jesus, fulfilled all your will
and won for you a holy people;
he stretched out his hands in suffering
in order to free from suffering those who trust you.

He is the one who, handed over to a death he freely accepted,
in order to destroy death, to break the bonds of the evil one,
to crush hell underfoot, to give light to the righteous,
to establish his covenant, and to show forth the resurrection,
taking bread and giving thanks to you, said:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

In the same way he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, then, his death and resurrection,
we take this bread and cup,
giving you thanks that you have made us worthy
to stand before you and to serve you as your priestly people.

Send your Spirit upon these gifts of your church;
gather into one all who share this bread and wine;
fill us with your Holy Spirit to establish our faith in truth,
that we may praise and glorify you through your Son Jesus Christ;
through whom all glory and honor are yours, almighty Father,
with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, both now and forever.
Amen.

Lord's Prayer





Breaking of Bread and Invitation to Communion

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

*At the direction of ushers, baptized and communing participants in the assembly wishing to commune will proceed to the front of the nave by the center aisle in a continuous line. Others may also come forward for a blessing. You will be invited to kneel, or remain standing if you prefer, at the rail. To receive the bread, place your hands palms up and level so that the presiding minister may place the bread onto your uplifted hands. Using a receptacle, such as a small juice glass which you have brought from home, hold it firmly so that the assisting minister is able to pour wine from the common cup into your individual glass. For health safety reasons, you may **not** dip the bread into the wine in the chalice. You may also elect to commune by receiving the bread only. Gluten free hosts are available to those who need that option. Once you have received the bread and wine, you will be invited to stand and return to your places by the side aisles with the words "Go in peace."*

Lamb of God: (Setting One, ELW pages 112)

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have

mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -

way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Hymn during Communion: “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence” (ELW 490)

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence



1 Let all mor - tal flesh keep si - lence, and with fear and trem - bling stand;
2 King of kings, yet born of Mar - y, as of old on earth he stood,
3 Rank on rank the host of heav - en spreads its van-guard on the way;
4 At his feet the six - winged ser - aph, cher - u - bim with sleep - less eye,



pon - der noth - ing earth - ly - mind - ed, for with bless - ing in his hand
Lord of lords in hu - man ves - ture, in the bod - y and the blood,
as the Light of light, de - scend - ing from the realms of end - less day,
veil their fac - es to the pres - ence, as with cease - less voice they cry:



Christ our God to earth de - scend - ing comes full hom - age to de - mand.
he will give to all the faith - ful his own self for heav'n - ly food.
comes, the pow'rs of hell to van - quish, as the dark - ness clears a - way.
“Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, Lord Most High!”

Text: Liturgy of St. James; tr. Gerard Moultrie, 1829–1885, alt.

Music: PICARDY, French folk tune, 17th cent.

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.

Radiant God, with our eyes we have seen your salvation, and in this meal we have feasted on your grace. May your Word take flesh in us, that we may be your holy people, revealing your glory made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Blessing

Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
Amen

Sending Hymn: “Once in Royal David’s City” (ELW 269)

Once in Royal David’s City

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major and 4/4 time. It consists of six systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are printed below the vocal lines. The score begins with a key signature of one flat (F major) and a common time signature. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a steady rhythm. The piano accompaniment provides a harmonic foundation with chords and moving lines. The lyrics are printed in a clear, sans-serif font below the vocal lines.

1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly cat - tle shed,
2 He came down to earth from heav - en who is God and Lord of all,
3 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re - deem - ing love;
4 Not in that poor low - ly sta - ble, with the ox - en stand - ing by,

where a moth - er laid her ba - by in a man - ger for his bed;
and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall;
for that child so dear and gen - tle is our Lord in heav'n a - bove;
we shall see him; but in heav - en, set at God's right hand on high;

Mar - y was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle child.
with the poor and meek and low - ly, lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.
and he leads his chil - dren on to the place where he is gone.
there his chil - dren gath - er round, bright like stars, with glo - ry crowned.

Text: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818–1895
Music: IRBY, Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805–1876

Announcements

Dismissal

Go in peace. Care for the earth.
Thanks be to God.

Closing Voluntary:

“Prelude and Fugue on Tempus Adest Floridum” Richard Shephard

Readings for the Coming Week:

Genesis 1:1-5

God creates light God creates light

Psalms 29

The voice of the LORD is upon the waters. (*Ps.* 29:3)

Acts 19:1-7

Baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus

Mark 1:4-11

Revelation of Christ as God’s servant

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**December 31, 2023
10:00AM**

Harry Therwanger

Presiding Minister

Dave Oaks

Assisting Minister

Gail Ramshaw

Reader

Barbara Verdile

Cantor

Glen Mason and Ted Mortensen

Communion Assistants

Dave Oaks

Lock-Up, starting December 31

**Attendance: December 24th, 10 :00 AM – 92 | 7:00 PM – 97
December 25th, 10:00AM – 85**

Live Stream Views – 3 | Views after Streaming – 8

The flowers in the chancel are given to the glory of God by Glen Mason.

Printed copies of the weekly announcements are available from the ushers.

*Join us for refreshments and fellowship in the Fellowship Hall,
downstairs under the sanctuary.*

Our worship service is regularly video recorded and posted online.

**RESURRECTION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
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Leslie Nolen, Council President
Christina Cuesta, Council Secretary