

Dear members of God's family at Resurrection Church,

Today we hear the story of the Annunciation, when the angel Gabriel announced to Mary the good news that she would give birth to the holy child through whom our salvation would come. If you are able, join the congregation with your own worship at home **at 10am on Sunday** or otherwise engage our home worship resources in ways appropriate to your circumstances.

## **RESURRECTION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**



**The Fourth Sunday of Advent  
December 20, 2020  
Our Common Prayer at Home**

*You may choose to participate in this home prayer simply by using this text, or by adding into it the printed text of Pastor Linman's sermon, or by adding one or more of the clip based worship videos, or by engaging the entire worship video. Find a peaceful place to pray, perhaps a table. If you have an Advent wreath at home, you may wish to light four candles. One person may lead in this acclamation and then pray the Prayer of the Day.*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us all. **Amen.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

*A brief silence is kept before the prayer.*

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that would obstruct your mercy, that willingly we may bear your redeeming love to all the world, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Then the readings for this Sunday may be read, as follows:*

## **FIRST READING: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16**

A reading from 2 Samuel.

<sup>1</sup>Now when David the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, <sup>2</sup>the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." <sup>3</sup>Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you."

<sup>4</sup>But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: <sup>5</sup>Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? <sup>6</sup>I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. <sup>7</sup>Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" <sup>8</sup>Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; <sup>9</sup>and I

have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. <sup>10</sup>And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, <sup>11</sup>from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. <sup>16</sup>Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

*This Psalm is sung or read in response to the First Reading. Music may be found at:*  
<https://www.relcarlington.org/hw/20201220/playlist>

### **PSALM 89:1-4, 19-26**

<sup>1</sup>Your love, O LORD, forever | will I sing;

from age to age my mouth will pro- | claim your faithfulness.

<sup>2</sup>For I am persuaded that your steadfast love is estab- | lished forever;

you have set your faithfulness firmly | in the heavens.

<sup>3</sup>“I have made a covenant with my | chosen one;

I have sworn an oath to Da- | vid my servant:

<sup>4</sup>I will establish your | line forever,

and preserve your throne for all | generations.”

<sup>19</sup>You spoke once in a vision and said to your | faithful people:

“I have set the crown upon a warrior and have exalted one chosen out | of the people.

<sup>20</sup>I have found Da- | vid my servant;

with my holy oil have I a- | nointed him.

<sup>21</sup>My hand will | hold him fast

and my arm will | make him strong.

<sup>22</sup>No enemy | shall deceive him,

nor shall the wicked | bring him down.

<sup>23</sup>I will crush his | foes before him

and strike down | those who hate him.

<sup>24</sup>My faithfulness and steadfast | love are with him,

and he shall be victorious | through my name.

<sup>25</sup>I will set his hand | on the sea,  
and his right hand | on the rivers.  
<sup>26</sup>He will say to me, ‘You | are my father,  
my God, and the rock of | my salvation.’

## **SECOND READING: Romans 16:25-27**

A reading from Romans.

<sup>25</sup>Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages <sup>26</sup>but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—<sup>27</sup>to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, be the glory forever! Amen.

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

## **GOSPEL: Luke 1:26-38**

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin woman engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And the angel came to her and said, “Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.” <sup>29</sup>But she was much perplexed by the angel’s words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. <sup>33</sup>He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his dominion there will be no end.” <sup>34</sup>Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” <sup>35</sup>The angel said to her,

“The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. <sup>36</sup>And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. <sup>37</sup>For nothing will be impossible with God.” <sup>38</sup>Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Having read these readings, think of this:*

*“The Lord is with you,” says Nathan to David. “The Lord is with you,” says the angel to Mary. When we hear these readings today they say to us, “The Lord is with you.” We have been and are afraid, especially now. Though we have heard promises about how kings and other rulers will do wonderful things, they have cruelly disappointed our hopes. “Do not be afraid,” these readings say to us. The house that God builds is neither a royal temple nor a dynasty of kings, for the true king is not a king at all, but a child born among the poor who grows to become a crucified man and lives as Christ arisen. In the power of the Spirit, he is present now, making any place where his word is heard to be the house of God. That secret is now disclosed. We usually come to the house God builds when we gather with the assembly to hear the word and to receive Christ in the holy communion. But even in these days, God’s word sounds in our homes and in our hearts. We become God’s house, empowered to share Christ with our world. “The Lord is with you.” Now. Listen to that word. With Mary, trust it. Say, “Let it be to me according to your word.”*

*At this point, read or listen to Pastor Linman’s Fourth Sunday of Advent Sermon. It may be found in the RELC News, on the RELC website, or at:*

<https://www.relcarlington.org/hw/20201220/playlist>

You might now sing the following hymn. Music may be found at <https://www.relcarlinton.org/hw/20201220/playlist>

## HYMN OF THE DAY #265

### The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came



1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,  
2 "For know a bless - ed moth - er thou shalt be,  
3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;  
4 Of her, Em - man - u - el, the Christ, was born



with wings as drift - ed snow, with eyes as flame:  
all gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee;  
"To me be as it pleas - eth God," she said.  
in Beth - le - hem all on a Christ - mas morn,



"All hail to thee, O low - ly maid - en Mar - y,  
thy son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,  
"My soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy God's ho - ly name."  
and Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say:



most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."  
most high - ly fa - vored la - dy." Glo - ri - a!  
Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy,  
"Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."

Text: Basque carol; para. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834–1924  
Music: GABRIEL'S MESSAGE, Basque carol

*Then pray these intercessions:*

On this fourth Sunday of Advent, let us pray that God come quickly to this weary world, responding to each petition with the words, "Come and save us soon."

*A brief silence.*

O God, Emmanuel, we pray: be with us. Bless our national church and our own congregation. Bless also our neighbors of other denominations and faiths, that strengthened by your presence we may support one another in love and together serve those in need.

*A brief silence.*

Hear our prayer, O God:  
**Come and save us soon.**

O God, the Wisdom of the world, as tomorrow the earth's north tilts back toward the sun, preserve vegetation and wild animals during winter. Form us into a people who honor your creation. Make of our decorated Christmas trees signs of our thankfulness for the earth.

*A brief silence.*

Hear our prayer, O God:  
**Come and save us soon.**

O God, King of nations, bring peace and justice to the countries of the world. Lead the nations of the Middle East toward peace with one another and justice for the Palestinians. Guide our elected leaders toward honest and compassionate policies that serve all the people. Preserve our nation from discord and violence.

*A brief silence.*

Hear our prayer, O God:  
**Come and save us soon.**

O God, Key of David, look with mercy on all who are locked into despair, who fear the darkness, who live brokenhearted. Open windows to those who are isolated. Abide with all who are incarcerated. Give shelter to the homeless and the refugees.

*A brief silence.*

Hear our prayer, O God:  
**Come and save us soon.**

O God, Root of Jesse, nurture our community. Connect us with one another across all barriers, and bring an end to historic prejudices. Bless the work of food pantries and relief agencies, and inspire our holidays with your Spirit of benevolence.

*A brief silence.*

Hear our prayer, O God:

**Come and save us soon.**

O God, Ruler of might, send your healing power to all in bodily need. Curb the coronavirus, and strengthen medical workers. For those with Covid-19 we pray. Guide all world health organizations and governmental officials in the distribution of the vaccines, and calm the fears of those who are reluctant to receive the vaccine. Bring pregnant women to successful births. We pray especially for: Barb Jensen, Charlotte Boeck, Don Hansen, Gretchen Zeltner, Lynn Kiewel, John Beston, Frank Fuelling, Phillip Swingler, Michael Chaffier, Maria Liwski, Mimi Van Poole, Angie, Kyler, Debbie, Kat, Sherry and Todd.

*A brief silence.*

Hear our prayer, O God:

**Come and save us soon.**

O God, our Savior, dwell within us; make us your home, and receive the prayers of our hearts.

*A brief silence.*

Hear our prayer, O God:

**Come and save us soon.**

O God, Dayspring everlasting, we remember all who have died and now live in your light, especially Katharina von Bora Luther and those we name here before you: . . . Gather us to yourself, when we join with all the faithful of every time and land to sing Mary's hymn of praise.

*A brief silence.*

Hear our prayer, O God:

**Come and save us soon.**

We cannot thank you enough, O Emmanuel, for your ongoing presence among us. Remain with us, and receive our prayers, for the sake of the Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

Now read or sing the following Hymn. Accompaniment is at <https://www.relcarlington.org/hw/20201220/playlist>

## HYMN #257 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive  
2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things  
3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on  
4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here  
far - and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;  
Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law  
tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joyce! Re-joyce!  
in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.  
and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

- 5 O come, O Key of David, come,  
and open wide our heav'nly home;  
make safe the way that leads on high,  
and close the path to misery. *Refrain*
- 6 O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer;  
O Sun of justice, now draw near.  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
and death's dark shadow put to flight. *Refrain*
- 7 O come, O King of nations, come,  
O Cornerstone that binds in one:  
refresh the hearts that long for you;  
restore the broken, make us new. *Refrain*
- 8 O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here  
until the Son of God appear. *Refrain*

Text: *Psalteriolan Cantionum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. composite  
Music: VENI, EMMANUEL, French processional, 15th cent.  
Text sts. 2, 6, 7 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

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*Then conclude with these prayers:*

Let us pray.

*A brief silence is kept before the prayer.*

Holy God, the Beginning and the Ending, our Hope as we wait,  
we praise you for joining us to your people of old.

We bless you for your prophets who call us to righteousness  
and promise a new earth with peace for all.

For the Word of your covenant, we thank you, O God.

**We thank you, O God.**

We praise you for the coming of Jesus our Lord,  
who lifts up the lowly, heals the suffering world,  
and proclaims your way of mercy and truth.

For your Word who is Christ, we magnify you, O God.

**We magnify you, O God.**

Send your Spirit on all who receive your Word.

Nurture our faith with your grace,  
accompany us with your might,

and empower our zeal for your justice and joy.

For your Word through the church, we praise you, O God.

**We praise you, O God.**

All praise to you, holy God,  
today, tomorrow, and forever. Amen.

**Amen.**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**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.  
Save us from the time of trial,  
And deliver us from evil,  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,  
now and forever.  
Amen.**

*Then speak the Blessing:*

Almighty God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless us now and forever.  
**Amen.**



*We cannot now celebrate the Holy Communion. But you can pray at your table in your home, a table which always echoes the Holy Supper. Christ is always present at your meal. Your meal is holy. Here is one prayer you might use, at breakfast, lunch, or dinner, to celebrate that presence.*

**Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest,  
and let this food to us be blessed.  
Blessed be God, who is our Bread,  
may all the world be clothed and fed.**

**Readings for the Week:**

**Monday** Luke 1:46b-55. **Tuesday** Hebrews 8:1-13. **Wednesday** 1 Samuel 2:1-10.

**Thursday** (Nativity of Our Lord, Christmas Eve) Luke 2:1-14 [15-20].

**Friday** (Nativity of Our Lord, Christmas Day) John 1:1-14. **Saturday** (Stephan, Deacon and Martyr) Acts 6:8—7:2a, 51-60. **First Sunday of Christmas** Isaiah 61:10—62:3; Psalm 148; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-40.

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