

Dear members of God's family at Resurrection Church,

Today we hear the story of Joseph and Mary's visit to the temple where they encountered the prophetic messages of Simeon and Anna about their son, Jesus. As you will come to know through today's readings, there are messages for us as well. 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 First Sunday of Christmas
December 27, 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 in the entire worship video. Find a peaceful place to pray, perhaps a table. You may wish to light a candle near where you pray. 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.

Almighty God, you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of the one who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

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

FIRST READING: Isaiah 61:10—62:3

A reading from Isaiah.

¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he 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 her vindication shines out like the dawn,

and her salvation like a burning torch.
²The nations shall see your vindication,
and all the kings your glory;
and you shall be called by a new name
that the mouth of the LORD will give.
³You shall be a crown of beauty 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.

This Psalm is sung or read in response to the First Reading. Music may be found at:
<https://www.relcarlington.org/hw/20201227/playlist>

PSALM 148

¹Hallelujah! Praise the LORD | from the heavens;
praise God | in the heights.
²Praise the LORD, | all you angels;
sing praise, all you | hosts of heaven.
³Praise the LORD, | sun and moon;
sing praise, all you | shining stars.
⁴Praise 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,
⁶who made them stand fast forev- | er and ever,
giving them a law that shall not | pass away.
⁷Praise the LORD | from the earth,
you sea monsters | and all deeps;
⁸fire and hail, | snow and fog,
tempestuous wind, do- | ing God's will;
⁹mountains | and all hills,
fruit trees | and all cedars;
¹⁰wild beasts | and all cattle,
creeping things and | flying birds;
¹¹sovereigns of the earth | and all peoples,
princes and all rulers | of the world;
¹²young | men and maidens,
old and | young together.
¹³Let them praise the name | of the LORD,

whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over | earth and heaven.
¹⁴The LORD has raised up strength for the people and praise for all | faithful serv-
ants, the children of Israel, a people who are near the LORD. | Hallelujah!

SECOND READING: Galatians 4:4-7

A reading from Galatians.

⁴When the fullness of time had come, God sent his 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 his 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: Luke 2:22-40

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 2nd chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²²When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, Joseph and Mary 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 him 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 they 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.

Having read these readings, think of this:

The texts for the First Sunday of Christmas, on the Third Day of the feast this year, are painfully honest about death. Two birds — the offering of poor people who could not afford a lamb — are to be ritually killed for the sake of the purification of the mother from the blood of childbirth, but also to stand in for Jesus, their first born son, to redeem him from death. Two old people also show themselves ready to die. And Simeon foretells the death of Jesus, who is in fact not finally redeemed but who himself will be the Lamb who saves us all in his cross-death. In all of this, we may hear echoes of our own death: those inner thoughts of ours may be revealed. But listen more deeply: death itself is overcome. The Child has come to clothe us in God’s salvation, to redeem us. Jesus Christ, born among us, is light for all people, like a burning torch or like dawn in our darkness. With Anna, we hear the promises of the scripture and sing of the Child who saves us. With Simeon, we take the Child into our hands — in the holy communion when that is possible, in the holy scriptures always. That Child is now alive among us: Jesus Christ, crucified and risen. God has sent the Spirit of Christ into our hearts so that as free and adopted children of God, together with Christ, we may witness to God’s mercy in our cities.

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

<https://www.relcarlington.org/hw/20201227/playlist>

You might now sing the following hymn. Music may be found at <https://www.relcarlinton.org/hw/20201227/playlist>

HYMN OF THE DAY #272

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing from ten - der stem hath
 2 I - sai - ah had fore - told it, the rose I have in
 3 This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet-ness fills the
 4 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, who felt our hu - man

sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing as
 mind; with Mar - y we be - hold it, the
 air, dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor the
 woe; O Sav - ior, king of glo - ry, who

seers of old have sung, it came, a flow'r so bright, a -
 vir - gin moth - er kind. To show God's love a - right, she
 dark-ness ev - 'ry - where. True man, yet ver - y God, from
 dost our weak - ness know: bring us at length, we pray, to

mid the cold of win - ter, when half - spent was the night.
 bore to us a Sav - ior, when half - spent was the night.
 sin and death he saves us and light - ens ev - 'ry load.
 the bright courts of heav - en and in - to end - less day.

Text: German carol, 15th cent.; tr. Theodore Baker, 1851–1934, sts. 1-2; Harriet R. Krauth, 1845–1925, st. 3; John C. Mattes, 1876–1948, st. 4
 Music: ES IST EIN ROS, *Alte catholische geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1599; arr. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621

Then pray these intercessions:

On this first Sunday after Christmas Day, let us pray for all who are in need, responding to each petition with the words “In mercy, redeem the world.”

A brief silence.

O God, Abba-Father, Son, and Spirit: bless your church throughout the world with the joy of your salvation and with perseverance through this time of limited assembly worship. Make our homes like temples filled with your praise.

A brief silence.

We pray for the church, gracious God:

In mercy, redeem the world.

In the cold north, keep safe your whole creation until springtime arrives. Protect the underground seeds and the hibernating animals. Make snowfall into a blessing.

A brief silence.

We pray for the earth, gracious God:

In mercy, redeem the world.

Cause righteousness and praise to spring forth in every land. Inspire leaders to serve with compassion and integrity, caring for the common good. Bring peace within and between the nations. Accompany the United Kingdom as it finds its new way forward.

A brief silence.

We pray for the nations, gracious God:

In mercy, redeem the world.

As 2020 comes to its end, we ask you to help us overcome its heartaches and to welcome 2021 with hope. Keep revelers safe from contagion. In the New Year, give all peoples an increase of health and harmony.

A brief silence.

We pray for 2021, gracious God:

In mercy, redeem the world.

Bless our elders with the peace and joy of Simeon and Anna. Strengthen those who have retired, those who work in older age, and those in need of income, food, or health care. Embrace those isolated by dementia, and connect young and old across generations.

A brief silence.

We pray for elders, gracious God:

In mercy, redeem the world.

This week we remember before you the infants of Bethlehem slain by King Herod. Protect all children around the world from abuse, hunger, and abandonment. Give to all children a loving home and stable education, that they may grow strong and live filled with wisdom.

A brief silence.

We pray for children, gracious God:

In mercy, redeem the world.

Come to all who are in need, the hungry, the homeless, the war-torn. Guide us in and through this fearsome pandemic. Visit those sick with Covid-19. Comfort all who live with depression or fear. Abide with those for whom the holiday season was overwhelmed by sorrow. We pray especially for Barb Jensen, Charlotte Boeck, Gretchen Zeltner, Lynn Kiewel, John Beston, Frank Fuelling, Phillip Swingler, Michael Chaffier, Maria Liwski, Mimi Van Poole, Lee Hanson, Grant Aldonis, Angie, Kyler, Debbie, Kat, Sherry and Todd.

A brief silence.

We pray for all in need, gracious God:

In mercy, redeem the world.

As Simeon held the infant Jesus in his arms, we now ask you to hold us in your care, O loving God. Adopt us as your own, and listen to our silent prayers.

A longer period of silence.

We pray for ourselves, gracious God:

In mercy, redeem the world.

We praise you for all who have died in the faith: for the apostle and evangelist John, and for those we name here before you: Don Hanson. And when our own death approaches, let us depart in your peace, ready to join with all your saints in life everlasting.

A brief silence.

We pray for peace at the end, gracious God:

In mercy, redeem us.

O God, Abba-Father, Son, and Spirit: as you received the sacrifices of Mary and Joseph, receive now our prayers, now and forever.

Amen.

Now read or sing the following Hymn. Accompaniment is at <https://www.relcarlinton.org/hw/20201227/playlist>

HYMN #288

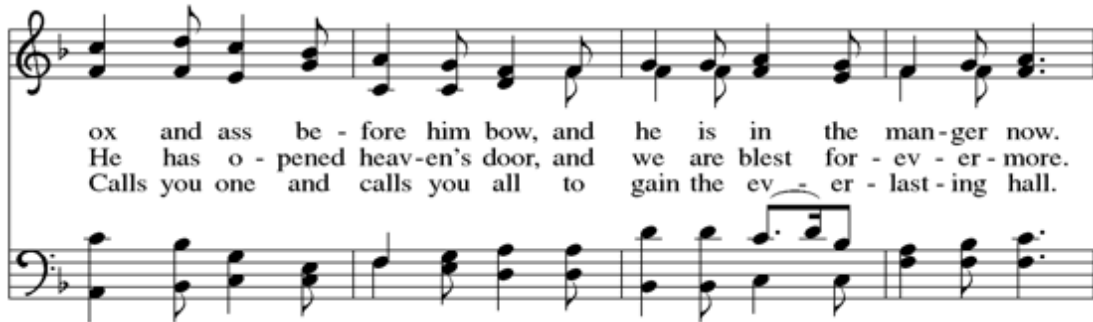
Good Christian Friends, Rejoice



1 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joi - ce with heart and soul and voice;
2 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joi - ce with heart and soul and voice;
3 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joi - ce with heart and soul and voice;



give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
now ye need not fear the grave; Je - sus Christ was born to save!



ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.
He has o - pened heav - en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.



Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Then conclude with these prayers:

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

Holy God, everlasting Father, Prince of Peace, wonderful Counselor,
at the birth of time your Word brought light into the world,
and throughout the ages, you proclaim newness of life.

For your wondrous Word, we thank you, O God.

We thank you, O God.

In the fullness of time, your Word became flesh,
to shine in our world's darkness, to speak peace to all peoples,
and to welcome us as members of your family.

For your loving Word, we adore you, O God.

We adore you, O God.

Grant us now the gift of your Spirit,
that held, nourished, and protected by your Word,
we may live as your children, bearing your goodness throughout the world.
For your powerful Word, we praise you, O God.

We praise you, O God.

All glory to you, holy God, now 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 (The Holy Innocents, Martyrs) Matthew 2:13-18.

Tuesday (John, Apostle and Evangelist) John 21:20-25. **Wednesday** 2 Peter 3:8-13. **Thursday** John 8:12-19. **Friday** (Name of Jesus) Numbers 6:22-27.

Saturday (Johann Konrad Wilhelm Loehe, renewer of the church, 1872) Psalm 148. **Second Sunday of Christmas** Jeremiah 31:7-14 *or* Sirach 24:1-12; Psalm 147:12-20 *or* Wisdom 10:15-21; Ephesians 1:3-14; John 1:[1-9] 10-18.

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