

Dear members of God's family at Resurrection Church,

Today's readings invite us to see with God's eyes the promise of grace upon grace amidst our pervasive, all-too-human fears of scarcity. 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 Second Sunday of Christmas
January 3, 2021
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 have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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: Jeremiah 31:7-14

A reading from Jeremiah.

⁷Thus says the LORD:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;
proclaim, give praise, and say,
“Save, O LORD, your people,
the remnant of Israel.”

⁸See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north,
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,
among them the blind and the lame,
those with child and those in labor, together;
a great company, they shall return here.

⁹With weeping they shall come,
and with consolations I will lead them back,
I will let them walk by brooks of water,

in a straight path in which they shall not stumble;
for I have become a father to Israel,
and Ephraim is my firstborn.

¹⁰Hear the word of the LORD, O nations,
and declare it in the coastlands far away;
say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him,
and will keep him as a shepherd a flock."

¹¹For the LORD has ransomed Jacob,
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.

¹²They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,
and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD,
over the grain, the wine, and the oil,
and over the young of the flock and the herd;
their life shall become like a watered garden,
and they shall never languish again.

¹³Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,
and the young men and the old shall be merry.

I will turn their mourning into joy,
I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.

¹⁴I will give the priests their fill of fatness,
and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,
says the LORD.

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/20210103/playlist>

PSALM 147:12-20

¹²Worship the LORD, | O Jerusalem;
praise your | God, O Zion,

¹³who has strengthened the bars | of your gates
and has blessed your chil- | dren within you.

¹⁴God has established peace | on your borders
and satisfies you with the | finest wheat.

¹⁵God sends out a command | to the earth,
a word that runs | very swiftly.

¹⁶God gives | snow like wool,

scattering | frost like ashes.
¹⁷God scatters | hail like bread crumbs.
Who can stand a- | gainst God's cold?
¹⁸The LORD sends forth the | word and melts them;
the wind blows, and the | waters flow.
¹⁹God declares the | word to Jacob,
statutes and judg- | ments to Israel.
²⁰The LORD has not done so to any | other nation;
they do not know God's judgments. | Hallelujah!

SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:3-14

A reading from Ephesians.

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. ⁵He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace ⁸that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight ⁹he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, ¹⁰as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, ¹²so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. ¹³In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; ¹⁴this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: John 1:1-18

The Holy Gospel according to John, the 1st chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵(John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") ¹⁶From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

The Gospel of the Lord.

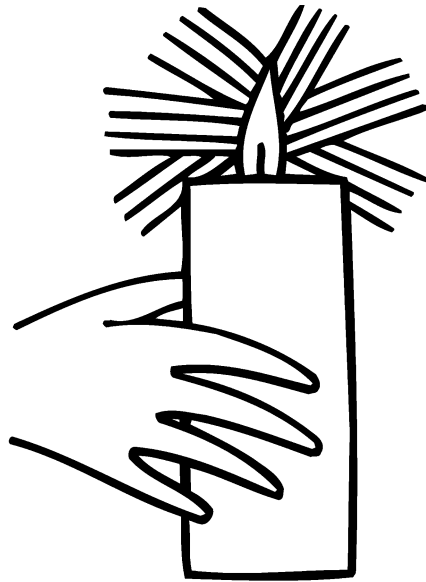
Praise to you, O Christ.

Having read these readings, think of this:

This year on the Tenth Day of Christmas we keep Sunday once more, and the whole mystery of the incarnation of God in Christ washes over us again. Of course, we are often part of that world that does not know him, his own people who do not accept him. But the Word is given to us in these readings. Receiving it, the Spirit of God comes to us and we are brought to faith again. We welcome into our hearts and lives Jesus Christ, incarnate, crucified and risen, the very one who has shared our nature and our lot, the very light that illumines all things. Then, as we

rightly weep about the needs of ourselves and others, God meets us with consolations. Hearing the Word together with all the church, we are made a watered garden, a place of grain, wine and oil in the sacraments, a rescued city, a people of the light. In the Word, which is the very presence of Christ, we receive grace upon grace. We are renewed to turn with this same news to our neighbors and to all the suffering earth.

At this point, read or listen to Pastor Linman's Second Sunday of Christmas Sermon. It may be found in the RELC News, on the RELC website, or at:
<https://www.relcarlington.org/hw/20210103/playlist>



You might now sing the following hymn. Music may be found at <https://www.relcarlington.org/hw/20210103/playlist>

HYMN OF THE DAY #510

Word of God, Come Down on Earth

The image displays a musical score for the hymn 'Word of God, Come Down on Earth'. It consists of four systems of music, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are written below the vocal line, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The lyrics are as follows:

1 Word of God, come down on earth, liv - ing rain from
2 Word e - ter - nal, throned on high, Word that brought to
3 Word that speaks God's ten - der love, one with God be -
heav'n de - scend - ing; touch our hearts and bring to birth
life cre - a - tion, Word that came from heav'n to die,
yond all tell - ing, Word that sends us from a - bove
faith and hope and love un - end - ing. Word al - might - y,
cru - ci - fied for our sal - va - tion, sav - ing Word, the
God the Spir - it, with us dwell - ing, Word of truth, to
we re - vere you; Word made flesh, we long to hear you.
world re - stor - ing, speak to us, your love out - pour - ing.
all truth lead us; Word of life, with one bread feed us.

Text: James Quinn, sr. b. 1919
Music: LIEBSTER JESU, WIR SIND HIER, Johann R. Ahle, 1625-1673
Text © James Quinn, SJ, Selah Publishing Co., Inc., North American agent, www.selahpub.com.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

Then pray these intercessions:

As we near the conclusion of the Christmas season, let us pray for God's mercy throughout this new year, responding to each petition with words from the first reading, "Save your people, O LORD."

A brief silence.

All through 2021, O redeeming God, bless your church. Renew the strength of bishops, pastors, deacons, musicians, and all servants of the church. Assist congregations in paying their bills. Give us hope in your goodness and joy in your salvation.

A brief silence.

Receive our prayer, merciful God.

Save your people, O LORD.

All through 2021, O bountiful God, bless your earth. Hold the ecosystems of this earth in the balance you intend, from coastlands to farmlands, forests to wetlands, deserts to rainforests. Reveal new ways for us to live in harmony with your creation.

A brief silence.

Receive our prayer, merciful God.

Save your people, O LORD.

All through 2021, O ruling God, bless the nations of the world. Bring peace and justice where there is violence and abuse of power. Inspire those in authority to serve the common good, and preserve stability in the United States. Protect those who risk danger for the sake of others.

A brief silence.

Receive our prayer, merciful God.

Save your people, O LORD.

All through 2021, O reconciling God, lead us out of patterns of prejudice and into reconciliation with one another. Help us to honor all persons as members of your family and our siblings under your care.

A brief silence.

Receive our prayer, merciful God.

Save your people, O LORD.

All through 2021, O loving God, give us wisdom in our resolutions and strength during hardships. Console those who are afraid or lonely. Give jobs to the unemployed. Direct us toward the solution to the world's problems, to feed the hungry, to house the homeless, to serve the neighbor.

A brief silence.

Receive our prayer, merciful God.

Save your people, O LORD.

All through 2021, O compassionate God, attend to those who suffer. End the pandemic. Restore health care workers. Heal the sick. Accompany those living with chronic and invisible illness. Visit those for whom we pray: Linnea Hoppe, Bob Hoppe, Olivia Hoppe, Barb Jensen, Charlotte Boeck, Gretchen Zeltner, Lynn Kiewel, John Beston, Frank Fuelling, Phillip Swingler, Michael Chaffier, Maria Liwski, Grant Aldonis, Angie, Kyler, Debbie, Kat, Lee Hanson and the family of Don Hanson.

A brief silence.

Receive our prayer, merciful God.

Save your people, O LORD.

All through 2020, O precious God, pour over us and into us your Holy Spirit, that we may live as your own, and accept the silent petitions we offer.

A longer period of silence.

Receive our prayer, merciful God.

Save your people, O LORD.

At this beginning of 2021, O eternal God, hear our praise for all those whose lives proclaimed your praise, especially those who died during 2020 and those who we name here: Don Hanson. At our end, bring us with them into the garden watered by your mercy.

A brief silence.

Receive our prayer, merciful God.

Save your people, O LORD.

O God, you are the Beginning and the Ending of all. Receive our prayers for the sake of one who made known to us the mystery of your will, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Then conclude with these prayers:

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

We praise you, O God, for your creating Word!
You set the foundations of the world
and gave breath to every living thing.
There is no Rock like you.
Blessed be God, forevermore;
our hearts sing of your mercy and might!

We praise you, O God, for your liberating Word!
In your steadfast love you led the people whom you redeemed,
you guided them by your strength to the land of promise.
You have lifted up the lowly.
Blessed be God, forevermore;
our hearts sing of your mercy and might!

We praise you, O God, for your life-giving Word!
Your Word became flesh and lived among us,
full of grace and truth.
You have looked with favor on the lowliness of your servants.
Blessed be God, forevermore;
our hearts sing of your mercy and might!

Blessed be God, from this time on and forevermore,
from the rising of the sun to its setting.
With Miriam, Hannah, and Mary,
we give you thanks and praise for your
creating, liberating, and life-giving Word!
Send us forth in the power of your Spirit
to sing of your greatness and serve all people,
following Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
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 Psalm 110. **Tuesday** Luke 6:27-31. **Wednesday** (Epiphany of Our Lord) Matthew 2:1-12. **Thursday** Psalm 29. **Friday** 1 Timothy 4:11-16.
Saturday 1 Kings 2:1-4, 10-12. **Baptism of Our Lord** Genesis 1:1-5; Psalm 29; Acts 19:1-7, Mark 1:4-11.

*Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Hymn #510, Text © James Quinn, S.J., Selah Publishing Co., Inc., North American agent. www.selahpub.com.
All rights reserved. Used with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-713051.*

Liturgical elements from *Sundays and Seasons.com*. © 2015 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Used with permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS006914.