

**The MISSION of Resurrection Lutheran Church  
is to nurture and strengthen God's people so  
that we can share His love with our community.**

**Our Vision sees this mission accomplished through  
Strengthening Discipleship ~ A Heart for Outreach  
Nurturing Children / Teens ~ Ministry to Young Adults**

## ***Welcome to Resurrection!***

**In the name of Jesus Christ, we welcome you to Resurrection Lutheran Church and School. We thank God for the gift of your presence here today, and we thank you for worshiping with us! **Come and worship with us again!****

**Your first visit at Resurrection? A special welcome! Please join us for a **time of Fellowship** at either **9:00** or **10:30 a.m.** – and we invite you to the **Sunday Education Hour** (beginning at **9:30 a.m.**) for Bible and topical classes **for all ages**. And please do not hesitate to share any questions about Resurrection, membership, youth groups, our mission and ministry, music programs, etc. **We invite you to join with us in worship, study, and service!****

**We have a Child Care Ministry for your convenience, should it become necessary (*for children through age of four*) – please ask an Usher to take you to the Nursery if needed! Also, please be sure to ask an Usher for a **“Kid's Activity Bag”** and/or a **Children's Worship Bulletin** as you enter the worship area.**

**Need a large-print (sight-saver) bulletin? Please ask an Usher!**

You are attending Resurrection's "Joyful Praise Service" (the Early Service), a blend of the Lutheran Liturgy with modern worship elements, using the best of both the hymnal and contemporary music. We also offer two other services on Sunday morning, each distinctive from the others:

- ☞ **9:30** – "Heritage of Praise Service" – *follows the traditional Lutheran Liturgy from our hymnals, incorporating the treasures of our heritage with the relevance of the Gospel.*
- ☞ **11:00** – "Praise and Celebration Service" – *combines the richness of God's Word with a more contemporary music and format. A Praise Service will usually be on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month, and a "blended" (Joyful Praise Service) worship on the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays.*

# ✠ FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT ✠

Early (8:00 a.m.) “Joyful Praise” Service  
December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2010

## A WORD AS WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP

It is the Fourth Sunday in Advent, and our attention turns to the sign we are awaiting – the sign of the Word made flesh through a virgin, our Emmanuel (*God with us*). Long ago the prophet spoke of this, the sign that God volunteered for His people. Now we come face-to-face with the promise of God, who is with us now and even forevermore. He gives us the sign that is His Son, not merely the gift of a child to His parents but the gift of hope to the world in the one and only Savior. This is the one who came, who comes to us in the Means of Grace, and who will come again just as He has promised.

## THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

HOLY COMMUNION will be celebrated this morning at each Worship Service. God’s Word teaches that in order to receive the blessings of forgiveness and new life in Christ through this Sacrament, you must prepare personally. Holy Communion is the Lord’s Supper, and I come at His invitation when I ...

- admit my sin and trust in Christ alone for forgiveness (read *1 John 1:8-9*, page 1206 in the red Pew Bible);
- have been baptized into Christ as Savior and Lord, and seek His power to live a new life (see *Romans 6:1-4, 11-14*, pages 1116-1117);
- accept by faith Jesus’ words that His **True Body and Blood** are given with the bread and wine for the forgiveness of my sins (see *1 Corinthians 11:24-29*, page 1136);
- recognize that as I commune at Resurrection, I am publicly expressing my faith in Jesus as my Savior and Lord, and my agreement with the Lutheran understanding of God’s Word, the Bible.

The wine (the blood of our Lord) is offered either by individual cups or the Common Cup. At the center of the tray of individual cups we offer grape juice, distinguished by its lighter color. **Should you have any questions concerning Communion, please ask the Usher to take you to the Pastor’s Office.**

*May this sharing of Holy Communion bring you comfort and peace this week!*

**IF YOU FEEL THAT YOU ARE NOT ABLE TO COME FORWARD TO RECEIVE THE LORD’S SUPPER, PLEASE LET AN USHER KNOW, AND THE SACRAMENT WILL BE BROUGHT TO YOUR PEW. Please sit at the end of the pew to make communing easier. Also, should you need “gluten-free” bread, please let one of the Pastors know before the service.**

# “Joyful Praise Service”

*for the*

## **FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT**

[JP – Advent 4 – A – 2010 (HC)]

### Monthly Memory Verse for December

“When [the shepherds] had seen [Jesus], they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.”

Luke 2:17-18



**“ABLAZE with Good News:  
EMMANUEL”**

**✠ IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST ✠**

**GOD DESERVES OUR FULL ATTENTION!**

As you prepare for worship, please silence your cell phones and pagers.

**The Prelude . . . . . The Lighting of the Candles**

**Significance of the Day . . . . . Pastor William “Hank” Hollar**

**Hymn of Invocation: Lift Up Your Heads, You Everlasting Doors**

**339: 1-2, 4 – the words of the hymn are projected on the screen –**

# ✠ CONFESSIOIN AND ABSOLUTION ✠

*Congregation shall stand*

## Invocation

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

## Confession of Sins and Announcement of Forgiveness

**P** O Lord, You are our Father,

**C** our Redeemer from of old is Your name.

**P** No one has heard, no ear has perceived,

**C** no eye has seen any God besides You.

**P** But we have sinned against Your ways.

**C** How then can we be saved?

**P** All of us have become like one who is unclean,

**C** and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags.

**P** Yet, O Lord, You are our Father;

**C** we are the clay, You are the Potter; we are all the work of Your hands.

**ALL:** Almighty God, because You hate nothing You have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent, create in us new and contrite hearts, so that we, repenting of our sins, may obtain from You, the God of all mercy, forgiveness and life everlasting.

**P** God hears our cry for mercy. For Jesus' sake He comes down to us, not in judgment but in forgiveness. God's forgiveness is awesome – a gift to us from Christ Himself. Therefore, in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins, in the Name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Yes, Lord, You are our Father. All glory be to You alone, now and forever. Amen.

## Sharing of the Peace

*Worshipers greet one another with a handshake or an embrace, and the words: “The peace of the Lord Jesus be with you!”*

## Lighting of the Advent Wreath

### **The Fourth Candle: “The Shepherds’ Candle”**

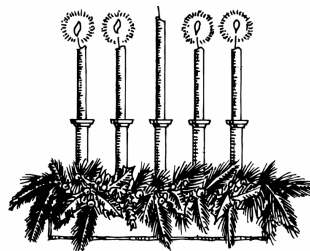
**A** As we light the fourth candle, along with the other candles on our Advent wreath, we recall with thanksgiving the excitement of the shepherds “*keeping watch over their flocks by night when an angel of the Lord appeared to them.*” *The shepherds “hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, lying in a manger.”* As this candle is lighted, we are reminded that the shepherds “*spread the word concerning what had been told to them about this child.*” We, too, are to live and share the Good News of God’s love in Christ our Lord. Let us pray,

**C** **Gracious Father, in Your great love for the world You have given us the gift of Your only Son as the light of the nations and glory of Israel. Open our hearts to receive Him and sanctify our lives to proclaim Your grace through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## Hymn Response: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

357: 1, 7

*All of the candles on the Advent Wreath, including the Shepherds’ Candle – but not the center candle, the Christ Candle – are lighted as the congregation sings the hymn, which is projected on the screen.*



*Congregation is seated*

## Welcome – Invitation to Grow In the Word

*All are invited to come GROW WITH US in God’s Word!  
Disciples of Jesus are to always be MATURING!*

# ✠ SERVICE OF THE WORD ✠

## Old Testament Lesson: Isaiah 7:10-17

- *The lesson is projected on the screen* -

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Congregation shall stand*

## Common Alleluia and Verse

*p. 173*

**C** Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?  
You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

*Lutheran Service Book, "Divine Service, Setting Two," © 2006 by Concordia Publishing House.*

## Holy Gospel: Matthew 1:18-25

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the first chapter.

**C** Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

- *The Gospel Lesson is projected on the screen* -

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

*Congregation is seated*

## Hymn of the Day: O Little Town of Bethlehem

**361: 1, 3-4**

- *the words of the hymn are projected on the screen* -

## Sermon: Matthew 1:18-25 – “His Name? We Had Hoped for Something Better!”

- 1) The problem of a Christmas gift is \_\_\_\_\_ – How well will my gifts for others match up to \_\_\_\_\_?
  - 2) God took that same risk at the \_\_\_\_\_ – and He is taking that risk this year as Christmas approaches once again.
  - 3) God’s gift is \_\_\_\_\_ – Emmanuel – “*God with us*” – and the name of the gift is \_\_\_\_\_
  - 4) Joseph – John the Baptist – the people in Jesus hometown – the religious leaders – even the disciples were all waiting, looking for, longing for God to be with people — but like this? – \_\_\_\_\_?
  - 5) Human beings are still looking for \_\_\_\_\_ – but what do we mean by that?
  - 6) Because we were hoping for something better, something easier, something that meets our expectations, we run the risk of missing the gifts God has for us, the gift of “*God with us*” ... \_\_\_\_\_
  - 7) Jesus is the unexpected \_\_\_\_\_ “*God with us*” – and He is also the \_\_\_\_\_ “*God with us*” on a cross – suffering, dying as “*God with us*,” as God **for** us, as Jesus in our place for our sins
  - 8) That is why “*God with us*” has this name: Jesus – “*He will save his people from their sins*” – Jesus pays the \_\_\_\_\_
  - 9) “*And surely \_\_\_\_\_, to the very end of the age.*”  
(Matthew 28:20)
  - 10) “*When (the shepherds) had seen (Jesus), they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.*” (Luke 2:17-18)
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**The Offering** ..... **The Friendship Pad**  
*During the Reception of the Offerings, please sign and pass the Friendship Pad down the pew, and then return it to the Pew Rack. Thank You!*

## Offertory Song: “I Hear a Sound”

*sung by the Songs of Praise Worship Team*

*Congregation shall stand*

### Prayer of the Church

*- our Prayer Requests are shared with the gathered People of God –*

**A** For faith to keep in holy hearts the promise of the Father which He has kept with the gift of His Son, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**A** For the grace of the Holy Spirit, that we may be kept in this faith until His coming again, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**A** For the Church that He established to bestow the blessings of His salvation through the Means of Grace and to bear witness to the world in His name, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**A** For our congregation, that we may celebrate the birth of our Lord with holy joy, self-controlled lives, and honest hearts, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**A** For the renewal of our hearts, that we may offer the Lord the living sacrifice of our very selves, serve Him in grateful obedience, and extend His compassion and care to all those in need, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**A** For those who travel and those apart from their families during this holy time of celebration, that they know the presence of the Lord in all their need, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

*- the Prayer Requests of God’s People are lifted up to His mighty Throne of Grace -*

**P** Lord, in Your Mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** Rejoicing in the fellowship of Your people by baptism and faith, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray to Your mercy through Christ, our Lord:

**C** Amen.

## ✠ SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION ✠

### Communion Liturgy

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Lift up your hearts.

**C** We lift them up to the Lord.

**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

**P** Great is Your glory, O Lord, our God. We praise you for the glory of Your creation and for the glory of Your love that bore with us sinners in patience until delivering up Your own Son to be our Savior and Lord. He was revealed as Messiah and Savior to the shepherds and Wise Men, and raised in glory on the cross. The empty tomb proclaims His glory and we, Your people, cling to Him for forgiveness and life. As Jesus has taught us, and as the Spirit gave us faith, so do we pray:

**C** Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

### The Words of Our Lord

**P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given

thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

## Peace of the Lord

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C** And also with you.

**Agnus Dei (Lamb of God)**      *Tune: “I Know That My Redeemer Lives” – LSB 461*

**C** O Lamb of God for sinners slain; the whole world’s sin You take away.

O Christ, the Lamb of God, give peace; have mercy on us, grant us grace.

*Text © 2002 Randy Haedge. Used by permission.  
From “Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish,” Series A, Part 3, 2002-2003.*

*Congregation is seated*

## Sharing of the Meal (Sacrament of the Altar)

All **baptized** Christians who believe that **Christ’s body and blood are present with the bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins and the strengthening of faith** are welcome to receive this Meal. **We invite children to come forward to receive a blessing.** Please sign the Friendship Pad and check the “Taking Communion” box to register for communion.

- ¶ Those worshipers desiring to receive Holy Communion will be ushered forward to the Communion Railing, where you will kneel at the signal of the Communion Assistant.
- ¶ After receiving the bread, if you wish to commune with an **individual cup**, please take it from the tray; an acolyte will bring a bowl to collect the individual cups.
- ¶ If you are communing with the **Common Cup**, it is easier if **you tilt it yourself.**
- ¶ After you have communed and received the blessing, please return to your seat, **offering a prayer of thanksgiving to our Gracious God** for His love displayed in this sacrament and season. A Communion Blessing will be spoken after all have communed.

## The Distribution Hymns

*During the distribution of Holy Communion, the following hymns are sung*

– *they are projected on the screen.*

**Once in Royal David's City – 376**

**Arise, O Christian People – 354**

**Angels from the Realms of Glory – 367**

*Congregation shall stand*

### **Communion Blessing**

The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you to life everlasting. Go in peace. Amen.

### **Benediction**

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

**G** Amen.

### **Recessional Hymn: O Come, All Ye Faithful**

**379: 1-2**

*– the words of the hymn are projected on the screen –*

### **Dismissal**

**P** Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**G** Come, Lord Jesus, come! Amen!

### **Silent Prayers – Postlude – End of Worship: Beginning of Service**

*The congregation may leave as the Postlude is shared.*

**May we greet one another in the name of the Lord Jesus!**

**✠ TO GOD ALONE BE THE GLORY ✠**

#### **Acknowledgments**

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