

Christmas Eve, 7:30 pm

ELW = the red hymn book underneath your seat.

† indicates stand as able

Gathering

Prelude

Diane Rauser & Dave Vagts

Welcome

† Confession & Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
whose steadfast love is everlasting.

Amen.

God who was and is and is to come,

Despite our best intentions, even our deepest desires, we find ourselves time and again turning away from you to follow after other gods—possessions, people, comforts—in an effort to fill the hole that only you can. In so doing we have harmed ourselves, others, and your holy creation by what we have said and done, and by the things we have neglected to do. Open our eyes to see that you alone are the source of our wholeness. Forgive us our wrongs and inspire us to the work of making them right, for the sake of your son, Jesus Christ.

Beloved of God, like the prodigal son, you are always received home with great joy. Your sins are forgiven in the name of Jesus Christ. Go forth in newness of life. **Amen.**

† Gathering Hymn

ELW 283

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem.
Come and behold Him, born the King of angels;

Refrain:

O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,

O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

The highest, most holy, light of light eternal,
Born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
Son of the Father, now in flesh appearing!

Refrain

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, in the highest;

Refrain

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to Thee be glory giv'n;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:

Refrain

† 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.

† Hymn of Praise

ELW 289

Upper Voices:

Angels we have heard on high,
Sweetly singing over the plains,
And the mountains in reply,
Echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo;
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Lower Voices:

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heavenly song?

Gloria in excelsis Deo;
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

All:

Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn king.
Gloria in excelsis Deo;
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

† Prayer of the Day

God of love,

On this holy night, when all of creation cries out with joy at the birth of Jesus, still there is suffering in the hearts of many. Still there is fear and grief nearby and far away.

Breathe hope into the world, as small and simple as the tiny babe in the manger, and by this hope, transform reality, that all might know the eternal joy of your redeeming love.

In the name of our newborn savior, Jesus Christ, we pray.

Amen.

Advent Candle Litany

On this holy night, a savior is born.

Jesus, you are that child, who redeems all of creation.

We lit the first candle in expectation of your coming.

We lit the second candle in hope of new life in you.

We lit the third candle in anticipation of your fulfillment of God's word.

We lit the fourth candle in wonder at your choice to become one of us.

Now we light this candle in joyful praise and celebration that you are in our midst at last, now and forever. Amen!

Bible Reading – Hebrews 1:1-9

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. For to which of the angels did God ever say,

“You are my Son; today I have begotten you”?

Or again,

“I will be his Father, and he will be my Son”?

And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says,

“Let all God's angels worship him.”

Of the angels he says,

“He makes his angels winds and his servants flames of fire.”

But of the Son he says,

“Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, and the scepter of righteousness is the scepter of your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.”

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

† Gospel Verse

Go tell it on the mountain,

Over the hills and ev'rywhere.

Go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.

† Gospel: Luke 2: 1-15

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

Glory to you O Lord.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the guest room.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us."

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

Sermon: *A Simple Savior*

Pastor Beth Wartick

***Hymn of the Day: I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve* ELW 271**

I am so glad each Christmas Eve,
the night of Jesus' birth!
Then like the sun the star shone forth,
and angels sang on earth.

The little child in Bethlehem,
he was a king indeed!
For he came down from heav'n above
to help a world in need.

He dwells again in heaven's realm,
the Son of God today;
and still he loves his little ones
and hears them when they pray.

I am so glad each Christmas Eve!
His praises then I sing;
he opens now for ev'ry child
the palace of the king.

And so I love each Christmas Eve,
and I love Jesus too;
and that he loves me ev'ry day
I know so well is true.

† Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,**

was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

† Prayers of the People

Trusting in the promise of Jesus' advent among us, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

O God. your finest work came about on a quiet night in a small town. Instill in us the wonder of a Savior's birth: how something so ordinary is the most extraordinary of all. God who was, and is, and is to come, **We lift our prayers to you.**

All of creation sings for joy at Jesus' birth! Make us to honor the earth and care for it, knowing that you came not only for our redemption, but for that of all you have made. God who was, and is, and is to come, **We lift our prayers to you.**

All people await the fulfillment of your peace on earth—a true and lasting peace which binds up all who have had their hearts broken by war, suffering, and injustice. Break into our world with your uncommon grace. God who was, and is, and is to come, **We lift our prayers to you.**

On this holy night, a mother comforted her newborn child. Comfort us as a parent would, when we cry out in pain, want,

or grief. Heal your servants and hold them close. God who was, and is, and is to come, **We lift our prayers to you.**

Mary and Joseph, faithful hearers of your commands, brought your son into the world. Add us to the long line of saints who heard your word and followed, risking the loss of safety, comfort, and reputation. God who was, and is, and is to come, **We lift our prayers to you.**

Steadfast and loving God, gather these prayers we have offered, both aloud and silent, into your loving arms, for we know that you are faithful and will never abandon us. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

† Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Offering

RLC Ministry relies on your generosity. You can make a gift in support of our ministry by placing it in the offering plates as they are passed, or by scanning the QR code to give securely online. Thank you.



Special Music

Sing We Now of Christmas

Offertory

As the gifts are presented, the following offertory is sung.

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;

Come, peasant, king, to own him.

The king of kings salvation brings;

Let loving hearts enthrone him.

Raise, raise the song on high,

The virgin sings her lullaby;

Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!

Offertory Prayer

We cannot possibly match the gift you gave us in Jesus, O God. For his sake, accept these humble offerings and transform them by your power for your work of justice and reconciliation in all the earth. **Amen.**

† Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also 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 God thanks and praise.

It is indeed right... We praise your name and join their unending hymn:

(to the tune of Angels from the Realms of Glory)

Holy, holy Lord most holy,

God of pow'r and God of might

Heav'n and earth reveal your glory.

Hail, hosanna, Lord of light!

Blessed be the coming savior.

Hail, hosanna, Lord of Light!

† Eucharistic Prayer

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you for your promise to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.

Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,
the Word made flesh.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling
among us, full of grace and truth.

We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.

We look with hope for his coming.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit.

Come among us.

Bless this meal.

May your Word take flesh in us.

Awaken your people.

Fill us with your light.

Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours,

Holy One of Israel,

Word of God incarnate,

Power of the Most High,

one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

† Lord's Prayer

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.

Communion

Ushers will dismiss worshipers forward in turn. People who are not able to come to the altar are invited to ask an usher to have the pastor bring communion to them.

Songs during Communion

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

ELW 270

Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king;
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled."
Joyful, all you nations, rise;
join the triumph of the skies;
with angelic hosts proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Refrain

Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king!"

Christ, by highest heav'n adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!
Hail, incarnate deity!
Pleased as man with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel! *Refrain*

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace!
Hail the Sun of righteousness!

Light and life to all he brings,
ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise each child of earth,
born to give us second birth. *Refrain*

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

ELW 490

Let all mortal flesh keep silence,
and with fear and trembling stand;
ponder nothing earthly-minded,
for with blessing in his hand
Christ our God to earth descending
comes full homage to demand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary,
as of old on earth he stood,
Lord of lords in human vesture,
in the body and the blood,
he will give to all the faithful
his own self for heav'nly food.

Rank on rank, the host of heaven
spreads its vanguard on the way;
as the Light of light, descending
from the realms of endless day,
comes, the pow'rs of hell to vanquish,
as the darkness clears away.

At his feet the six-winged seraph,
cherubim with sleepless eye,
veil their faces to the presence,
as with ceaseless voice they cry:
"Alleluia! Alleluia!"

Alleluia, Lord Most High!”

Away in a Manger

ELW 277

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky
and stay by my cradle til morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay
close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care
and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

Communion Blessing

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you
and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

Post-Communion Canticle

ELW 288

Good Christian friends, rejoice
With heart and soul and voice;
Give ye heed to what we say:
Jesus Christ is born today;
Ox and ass before him bow,
And he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

Christmas Proclamation

God’s love was revealed to us in this way: God sent his only
Son into the world so that we might live through him. In
this is love, not that we loved God, but that God loved us
and sent his Son to live, die, and rise so that we might live.

For it is the same God who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

John’s gospel tells us: “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.”

Candles will be lighted from the aisle seats with people passing their light to others. Please tip unlighted candles into the lighted candles to avoid dripping. You may light artificial candles anytime. As the candles are lit, Silent Night will be sung. Follow the direction of the song leaders.

Hymn: Silent Night, Holy Night

ELW 281

Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child
Holy infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace,
sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing, Alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born!

Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, love’s pure light
Radiant beams from your holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth,

Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

† ***Blessing***

May the Lord God, who has called you out of darkness to be servants of light, grant you the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, and the peace of the Christ Child. In the name of Almighty God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

† ***Sending Hymn Joy to the World***

ELW 267

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her king:
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heav'n and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy
repeat the sounding joy
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sin and sorrow grow
nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found
far as the curse is found,
far as, far as, the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace
and makes the nations prove the glories
of his righteous and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

† Dismissal

Christ the Savior is born!

Glory to God and peace on Earth!

Postlude

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Assisting tonight - 7:30 pm

Usher - Bob Frazier

Greeter - Mary Jo Frazier

Reader - Cathy Fredrick

Communion Assistant - Carolyn Darnielle, Joan Strand, Nancy Carlson, Marge Rupert, Carly Montgomery

Computer Operator - Stefan Strand

StreamTeam - Ken Carlson & Lee Patten

Choir Director - Jen Christy

Accompanists - Diane Rauser & Dave Vagts

Liturgists - Lois Kern & Sean Califf

Horns - Rachel Barton, Anneliese Barton, Greg Barton

This Week at Resurrection December 24-28

Tuesday	4:00 pm	Christmas Eve - Family Friendly
	7:30 pm	Christmas Eve - Candlelight

Thursday-Friday	Office Closed for Christmas
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Saturday	8:30 am	Bible Study at RLC
	Noon	AA Group Meeting

Sunday	9 am	Worship (Lessons & Carols)
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