RESURRECTION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH



Third Sunday of Advent December 15, 2024 10:00 a.m.

WELCOME!

Welcome to Resurrection Evangelical Lutheran Church, we are glad you are here!

If you are a visitor, we invite you to introduce yourself to our pastor and feel at home among us. In this bulletin, words in bold print are spoken by the assembly, non-bolded words are spoken by a leader. Two abbreviations used for hymns and service elements: ELW stands for Evangelical Lutheran Worship, which is the red hymnal in the book holder attached to the pew in front of you, and ACS is All Creation Sings, which is the blue songbook.

Following the worship service, please consider joining us for refreshments and fellowship in the Parish Hall, downstairs. An usher can direct you to the elevator.

COMMEMORATION IN THE WIDER CHURCH Monday, December 16, 2024, Las Posadas (LLC)

This celebration, long popular in Mexico, takes its name from the "posadas," or lodgings, sought by Mary and Joseph in Bethlehem. Their search is reenacted in a neighborhood, unsuccessfully, until finally they are welcomed in, and a party commences.

Friday, December 20, 2024, Katharina von Bora Luther, renewer of the church, died 1552 Born to an impoverished nobleman, Katie eventually took vows as a nun, but around age twenty-four she and several other nuns who were influenced by the writings of Martin Luther left the convent. Six children were born to Katie and Martin.

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

Introduction to the day

Christ's presence in our midst in the wonder of the holy supper is cause for singing. The nearness of the God in prayer, in every circumstance, is cause for rejoicing. The coming of one "more powerful" than John, even with a winnowing fork in hand, is good news—and cause for exultation—for us who are being saved. Great joy is the tone for the third Sunday of Advent.

We also rejoice that our youth proclaim the gospel today with their whole selves in our annual Christmas Pageant.

ORDER OF SERVICE

OPENING VOLUNTARY

"Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah," (Omage to César Franck) Wayne L. Wold

Please remain seated and direct your attention to the Advent Wreath in front of the pulpit.

WELCOME

CANDLE LIGHTING LITURGY / JOY "Teacher," the crowd asked, "What should we do?" If you have two shirts, give one away. Hold onto hope. Live like we belong to one another. Speak the truth. Look for God. Do the good that is yours to do. It's all that easy, and it's all that hard. Let us worship our present and active God.

The candle is introduced, then we continue...

In a weary and worn world, how do we begin again? Where do we start? Let us start small. Let us begin with what is right in front of us. Let us do the good that is ours to do, and let us do it with joy! Yes, let us begin with joy. Today we light the candles of hope, peace, and joy. May these lights remind us of what could be. May these lights inspire action. May the warmth of these lights fill us with joy. May it be so! Amen.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS (ELW p. 156)

The assembly is invited to kneel or remain seated. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, alive in the world, reviving creation, arriving soon. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of mercy, we confess that we have sinned. We trust earthly powers and human authority alone. We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.

God of might, we confess that we have sinned. We have turned away from our neighbors. We have trusted false promises.

God in our midst, we confess that we have sinned. We plead: come to us. Bring your mercy to birth in us.

A righteous branch springs forth: it is Christ the Lord, our Savior, in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy. By the power of the Holy Spirit, receive the grace and forgiveness of God through + Christ Jesus, whose day draws near.

Amen.

At the ringing of a bell, the assembly stands and faces the font.

GATHERING HYMN: Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers (ELW 244)



Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660–1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823–1907 Music: HAF TRONES LAMPA FÄRDIG, Swedish folk tune

GREETING (ELW p. 156)

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.**

ADVENT HYMN OF EXPECTATION:

O Come, O Come Emmanuel (ELW 257, verses 5 & 6)

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. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel. 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.Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuelshall come to you, O Israel.

PRAYER OF THE DAY (ELW p.159)

Let us pray. A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

The assembly is seated.

FIRST READING: Zephaniah 3:14-20

The prophet Zephaniah's message is mostly one of judgment for sin. This reading, however, which comes from the conclusion of the book, prophesies joy for Judah and Jerusalem. Judgment has led to repentance, and God's salvation is at hand.

A reading from Zephaniah.

¹⁴ Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! ¹⁵ The LORD has taken away the judgments against you, and has turned away your enemies. The Sovereign of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. ¹⁶ On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: "Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. ¹⁷ The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; the LORD will rejoice over you with gladness and will renew you in love; the LORD will exult over you with loud singing ¹⁸ as on a day of festival." I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. ¹⁹ I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. ²⁰ At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the LORD.

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

PSALM: Isaiah 12:2-6

The psalm is sung responsively by the whole verse.



² Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not ¹ be afraid,

for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might, and has become 'my salvation.

- ³ With joy you ¹ will draw water from the wells ¹ of salvation. R
- ⁴ And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the LORD, call ¹ on God's name; make known the deeds of the LORD among the nations; proclaim that this name ¹ is exalted.
- ⁵ Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done | gloriously; let this be known in | all the earth.
- ⁶ Shout aloud and sing for joy, O ⁺ royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy ⁺ One of Israel. **R**

SECOND READING: Philippians 4:4-7

Despite being in prison, Paul is remarkably upbeat as he writes this letter. Here, he urges his friends in Philippi to trust God with all their worries and concerns with the hope that they will experience God's joy and peace.

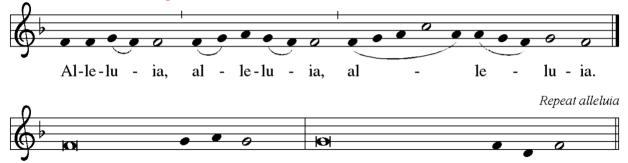
A reading from Philippians.

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 160)

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel. All sing the Alleluias, the cantor sings the verse, the Alleluias are repeated.



I am sending my messen- | ger before you,* who will prepare your | way before you.

GOSPEL: Luke 3:7-18

John the Baptist heralds the mighty one who is coming. John teaches that preparation for God's reign is not a matter of identity but of bearing fruits of merciful justice, radical generosity, and vocational integrity.

The holy gospel according to Luke. Glory to you, O Lord.

⁷ John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸ Therefore, bear fruits worthy of repentance, and do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ⁹ Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire."

¹⁰ And the crowds asked John, "What, then, should we do?" ¹¹ In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none, and whoever has food must do likewise." ¹² Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" ¹³ John said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." ¹⁴ Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

¹⁵ As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶ John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water, but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the strap of whose sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷ With a winnowing fork in hand, he will clear the threshing floor and gather the wheat into his granary, burning the chaff with unquenchable fire."

¹⁸ So, with many other exhortations John proclaimed the good news to the people.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The Amazing Story of Christmas

Please see Pageant Program.



HYMN OF THE DAY: 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 heav'n and nature sing,
 and heav'n and nature sing,
 and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

2. 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. 3. 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.

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

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION (ELW p. 161)

Assembly, please stand.

The response for today's intercessions is "We trust in you." *The presiding minister concludes the prayers:*

Receive our prayers, O God, and come quickly to our aid, through the power of the Spirit and the love of Jesus Christ. Amen.

PEACE (ELW p. 161)

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

The assembly may greet one another with a sign of Christ's Peace by bowing, waving, or offering another appropriate gesture and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words. The assembly is seated.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

"Comfort, Comfort Now My People" Mic

Michael Larkin

OFFERING AND SETTING THE TABLE

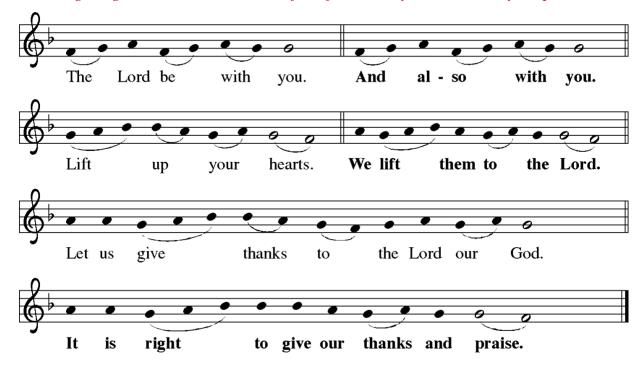
Members of the assembly may bring their offering forward when ushers invite them. Baskets are available to receive your gift at the front of the sanctuary. Communion ministers will sanitize and cleanse their hands prior to handling the gifts of bread and wine.

OFFERING PRAYER (ELW p. 161)

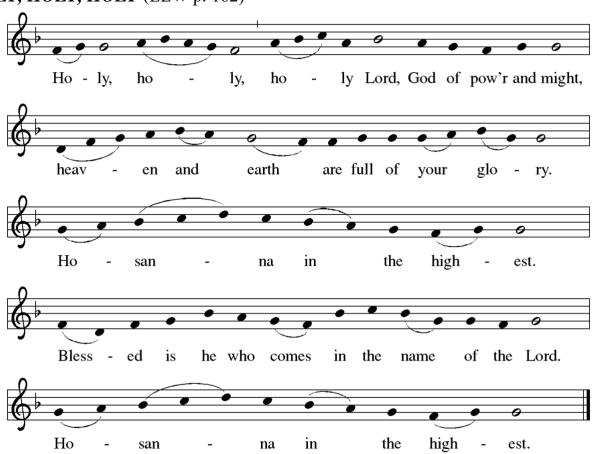
God of mercy and grace, the eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing. Fill us with good things at your table, that we may come to the help of all in need, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and Lord. **Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING: (ELW p. 161)

The Thanksgiving continues with the Preface for the day; the assembly responds:



HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (ELW p. 162)



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE (ELW p. 162)

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.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me. Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:



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.



LORD'S PRAYER (p. 163)

And now, we 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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

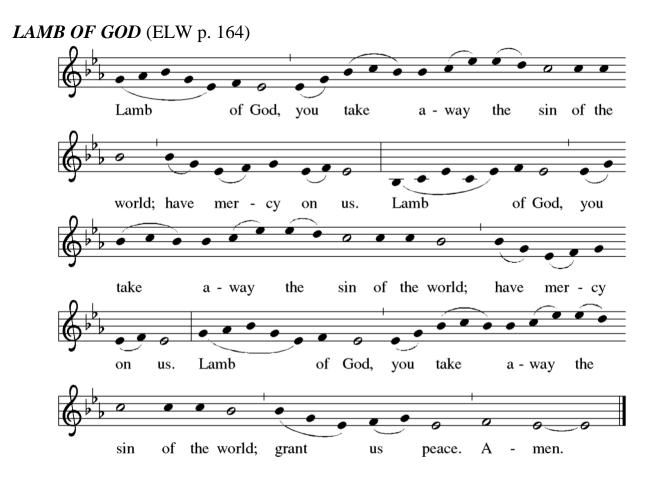
Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

The assembly may be seated. At the direction of ushers, baptized and communing members wishing to commune will proceed to the front of the nave, maintaining appropriate physical distance. To receive the bread, place your hands palms up. To receive the wine, hold a small cup firmly, the assisting minister will pour wine from the common cup. Please do not dip the bread into the wine. Gluten free hosts are also available. Return to your seats by the side aisles. You may elect to commune by receiving the bread only or you may elect to receive a blessing, simply cross your arms over your chest.

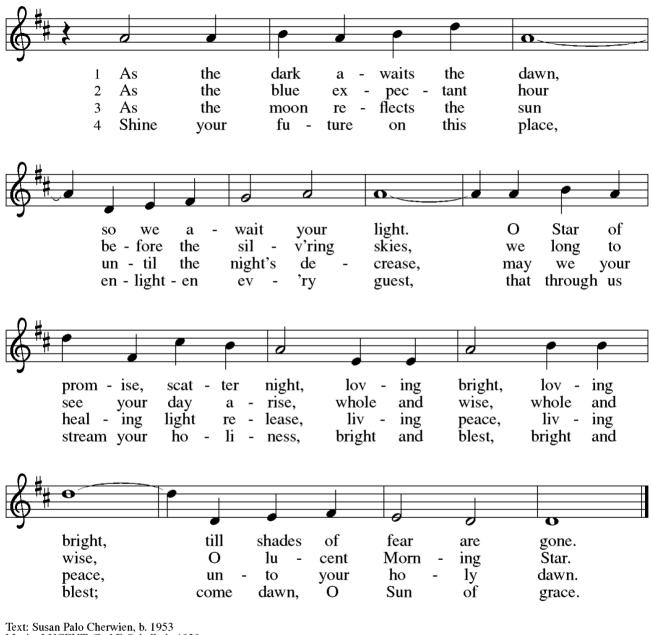
COMMUNION

When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say

"The body of Christ, given for you," and "the blood of Christ, shed for you." *Each person may respond*, Amen.



HYMN DURING COMMUNION: As the Dark Awaits the Dawn (ELW 261)



Music: LUCENT, Carl F. Schalk, b. 1929 Text © 1996 Susan Palo Cherwien, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Music © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (ELW p. 164)

God for whom we wait, in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE WITNESS OF SANKTA LUCIA

BLESSING (ELW p. 164)

God of endings and beginnings, God in the darkness and the light, God, our hope for the journey, + bless and keep you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN: In Thee Is Gladness (ELW 867)



Text: Johann Lindemann, 1549–1631; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt. Music: IN DIR IST FREUDE, Giovanni Giacomo Gastoldi, 1556–1622 *DISMISSAL* (ELW p. 164) Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel. **Thanks be to God.**

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

"Veni, Emmanuel"

Robert J Powell

Please join us for refreshments and fellowship in the Parish Hall, downstairs. An usher can direct you to the elevator.

Readings for December 22

Zephaniah 3:14-20

The prophet Zephaniah's message is mostly one of judgment for sin. This reading, however, which comes from the conclusion of the book, prophesies joy for Judah and Jerusalem. Judgment has led to repentance, and God's salvation is at hand.

Isaiah 12:2-6

In your midst is the Holy One of Israel. (Is. 12:6)

Philippians 4:4-7

Despite being in prison, Paul is remarkably upbeat as he writes this letter. Here, he urges his friends in Philippi to trust God with all their worries and concerns with the hope that they will experience God's joy and peace.

Luke 3:7-18

John the Baptist heralds the mighty one who is coming. John teaches that preparation for God's reign is not a matter of identity but of bearing fruits of merciful justice, radical generosity, and vocational integrity.

Notes on the music for today

OPENING VOLUNTARY "Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah," (Omage to César Franck) Wayne L. Wold (1954)

The hymn, "Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah," is based on a Yiddish folk tune, TIF IN VELDELE. The title means "Deep in the Forest" and comes from the first line of the love song that goes with this tune. This is the organ prelude that Wold composed, based on his own hymn tune. Written below the title in the organ score is "Homage to César Franck." Mr. Wold, in his inimitable tongue-in-cheek way, has cleverly paralleled Franck's "Prelude, Fugue, and Variation in B minor," a well-known standard of the organ repertoire. Wold's piece uses Franck's composition as a stylistic template. Like Franck's, it begins with a "Prelude" section with its plaintive melody played on the oboe stop, accompanied by soft flutes on the other manual and pedals.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: "Comfort, Comfort Now My People" Michael Larkin (1951)

This text is a versification of Isaiah 40:1-5, the passage that opens the final large group of prophecies in Isaiah 40-66. Many of these prophecies express consolation and hope that Judah's exile in Babylon is almost over. That is certainly the tone of 40: 1-5: words of comfort forecasting a new reign but also words that call for proper preparation—that is, repentance. Johannes Olearius (1611-1684) originally versified the passage in German in honor of Saint John the Baptist Day and published it in his *Geistliche Singe-Kunst* (1671), a collection of more than twelve hundred hymns, three hundred of them by Olearius himself. Born into a family of Lutheran theologians, Olearius wrote a commentary on the entire Bible, published various devotional books, and produced a translation of the *Imitatio Christi* by Thomas a Kempis. In the history of church music Olearius is mainly remembered for his hymn collection, which was widely used in Lutheran churches.

Dr. Michael Larkin is chairperson of the vocal/choral department and an artist/faculty voice teacher at the Wilmington Music School in Wilmington, DE. He also is Director of Music Ministry St. Mary Anne's Episcopal Church in North East, MD and is founder and music director of the New Ark Chorale of Newark, DE. In addition, Dr. Larkin is Eastern Division Chairperson for Music and Worship for the American Choral Directors Association. He is known nationally as a clinician and adjudicator in various aspects of vocal/choral music as well as the church music profession, especially the subjects of liturgy, worship planning, and musical and professional concerns for the church musician.

"Comfort, comfort now my people; Tell of peace!" So says our God. Comfort those who sit in darkness Mounrning under sorrows load.

To God's people now proclaim That God's pardon waits for them! Tell them that their war is over; God will reign in peace for ever!

For the herald's voice is crying In the dessert far and near, Calling us to true repentance, Since the Kingdom now is here. *Oh, that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God alway! Let the valleys rise to meet him, And the hills bow down before him.*

Straight shall be what once was crooked, And the rougher places plain! Let your hears be true and humble, As befits his holy reign!

For the glory of the Lord Now on earth is shed a broad, And all flesh shall see the token That God's word is never broken!

"Comfort, comfort now my people; Tell of peace!" So says our God.

CLOSING VOLUNTARY "Veni, Emmanuel" Robert J. Powell (1932)

Robert J. Powell was born in Benoit, Mississippi. Since 1958 he has published over 300 compositions for organ, choir, handbells and instrumental ensembles with leading American and English church music publishers. Robert Powell grew up in sacred music, beginning his training in the 5th grade and starting to compose in 7th grade. By age 18, he was providing piano and organ music for worship services, something he continued through his years in college and as a chaplain's assistant in the U.S. Army. Mr. Powell holds a Bachelor of Music in Organ and Composition from Louisiana State University (1954) and a Master of Sacred Music from Union Theological Seminary in New York (1958), where he studied under Alec Wyton. He was Assistant Organist at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York from 1958 to 1960, Organist/Choir director at St. Paul's in Meridian, MS from 1960 - 1965, and Director of Music at St. Paul's School in Concord, N.H. from 1965-1968. He held the position of Organist and Choir Director at Christ Church in Greenville, SC from 1968 to 2003.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship Hymnal:

#244: Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers, Text: Laurentius Laurenti; tr. Sarah B. Findlater. Music: HAF TRONES LAMPA FÄRDIG, Swedish folk tune. Text and music: Public domain.
#257: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, Text: *Pasletriolum Cantinonum Catholicarum*, Köln, tr. composite. Music: VENI EMMANUEL, French processional. Text and music: sts. 2, 6, 7 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress. Used with permission under ONE LICENSE # A-713051. All rights reserved.
#261: As the Dark Awaits the Dawn, Text: Susan Palo Cherwien. Music: LUCENT, Carl F. Schalk. Text: ©1996 Susan Palo Chrewien, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Music ©1997 Augsburg Fortress. Used with permission under ONE LICENSE # A-713051. All rights reserved.
#867, In Thee Is Gladness, Text: Johann Lindemann; tr. Catherine Winkworth, alt. Music: IN DIR IST FREUDE, Giovanni Giacomo Gastoldi. Text and music: Public domain.

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

December 15, 2024 10:00 a.m.

Rev. Harry Therwanger Vicar Jessica Zurcher Chris Schoen John Wood John Wood and Glen Mason Susanna Jacobson Glen Mason Presiding Minister Assisting Minister Assisting Minister Reader Communion Assistants Cantor Lock-Up, starting December 15

Attendance December 8, 10:00 a.m., 75 Live Stream Views, 9| Views after Streaming, 14

Our worship service is regularly video recorded and posted online. Printed scripture readings and weekly announcements are available from the ushers.

RESURRECTION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH 6201 Washington Blvd. Arlington, VA 22205 www.relcarlington.org 703-532-5991

Harry Therwanger, Pastor pastorharry@relcarlington.org 312-515-7269

Vicar Jessica Zurcher, Pastoral Intern vicarjessica@relcarlington.org 301-412-8989

Barbara Bulger Verdile, Music Director Angie Brooke, Christian Education Coordinator Leslie Nolen, Council President Christina Cuesta, Council Secretary