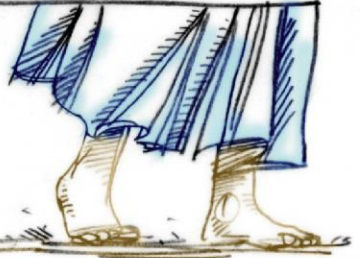


“FOLLOW ME.”



ORDER OF THE SERVICE OF THE WORD
THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY
JANUARY 24, 2021 - 8:00 AM

A warm welcome to all worshipping with Resurrection Lutheran Church today. In May of 2020, Resurrection Lutheran Church celebrated forty-two years of ministry. Celebrating our Savior's love continues today in the faithful gathering of God's people, whether we are together in God's house or as you watch online from the comfort of your home.

LESSONS AND LITURGY TODAY

God called Jonah and sent him to preach God's Word. Jonah's preaching was blessed by God, and people came to repentance. Sent by the Father into the world, Jesus came preaching the Gospel, saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the Gospel." That this Gospel of the kingdom may be preached to the whole world Christ called and sent apostles like Simon Peter, Andrew, James, and John, and pastors and teachers throughout the ages. God also calls each individual Christian into His family, the Church, and uses us as witnesses to share the Good News of salvation.

❖ Denotes times when the congregation is invited to stand.

The congregation is encouraged to quietly and prayerfully prepare for worship during the prelude.

PRELUDE

O Jesu Christe, Wahres Licht – P. Manz

GREETING

INSTALLATION OF CONGREGATIONAL OFFICERS

(Please see page 11-13 of this worship folder.)

❖ **INVOCATION**

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

P In the Name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P For God alone, O my soul, wait in silence,
C **for my hope is from Him.**

P Trust in Him at all times, O people;
C **pour out your heart before Him; God is a refuge for us.**

❖ **CONFESSION OF SINS AND GOOD NEWS OF FORGIVENESS**

P God chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world (*Ephesians 1:4*), and by our Lord's death and resurrection, offers full and free forgiveness. Let us therefore confess our sins to God our Father.

C **We confess that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed. Some of our sins are known to us and others we have kept hidden from ourselves. We have done the evil You forbid and have neglected to love You and the people around us more than we love ourselves. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us that we may joyfully do Your will.**

P For Jesus' sake God has heard Your plea for mercy. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen. Thanks be to God.**

❖ **SONG**

O Christ, Our True and Only Light

LSB 839, vs. 1, 3-4

**1. O Christ, our true and only light, Enlighten those who sit in night;
Let those afar now hear Your voice And in Your fold with us rejoice.**

**3. O gently call those gone astray That they may find the saving way!
Let ev'ry conscience sore oppressed In You find peace and heav'nly rest.**

**4. Shine on the darkened and the cold; Recall the wand'ers to Your fold.
Unite all those who walk apart; Confirm the weak and doubting heart,**

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❖ PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, mercifully look upon our infirmities and stretch forth the hand of Your majesty to heal and defend us; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT

Jonah 3:1-5, 10

(Through the prophet, Jonah, the Lord brings repentance and life to Nineveh. We, too, should repent and live.)

Then the Word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time:

"Go to the great city of Nineveh and proclaim to it the message I give you."

Jonah obeyed the Word of the LORD and went to Nineveh.

Now Nineveh was a very important city--a visit required three days.

On the first day, Jonah started into the city.

He proclaimed: "Forty more days and Nineveh will be overturned."

The Ninevites believed God. They declared a fast, and all of them, from the greatest to the least, put on sackcloth.

When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, He had compassion and did not bring upon them the destruction He had threatened.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE

I Corinthians 7:29-35

(Paul reminds us that the time for doing God's Work has become increasingly short.)

What I mean, brothers, is that the time is short. From now on those who have wives should live as if they had none; those who mourn, as if they did not;

those who are happy, as if they were not; those who buy something, as if it were not theirs to keep; those who use the things of the world,

as if not engrossed in them. For this world in its present form is passing away. I would like you to be free from concern. An unmarried man is concerned about the Lord's affairs—how he can please the Lord. But a married man is concerned about the affairs of this world—how he can please his wife—and his interests are divided.

An unmarried woman or virgin is concerned about the Lord's affairs:

- A This is the Word of the Lord.
- C **Thanks be to God.**

❖ **VERSE**

- C **Alleluia. These things are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Alleluia.** *(John 20:31a)*

❖ **HOLY GOSPEL**

(Jesus Calls His first disciples.)

Mark 1:14–20

- P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the first chapter.
- C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the Good News of God.

"The time has come," he said.

"The Kingdom of God is near.

Repent and believe the Good News!"

As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, He saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen.

"Come, follow Me," Jesus said,

Her aim is to be devoted to the Lord in both body and spirit.

But a married woman is concerned about the affairs of this world—how she can please her husband.

I am saying this for your own good, not to restrict you, but that you may live in a right way in undivided devotion to the Lord.

"and I will make you fishers of men."

At once they left their nets and followed Him.

When He had gone a little farther, He saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat, preparing their nets.

Without delay He called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed Him.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.
C Praise to You, Lord Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Bob Unger

SONG

"I, the Lord of Sea and Sky" (Here I Am, Lord)

WOV 752

1. I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin My hand will save.
I who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?

Refrain

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.

2. I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them. They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone, Give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send? Refrain

3. I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide Till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send? Refrain

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SERMON

Real Issues, Real Grace

Pastor Jonathan Blanke

Whether Single or Married, People of Hope

1 Corinthians 7:29–35/Mark 1:14–20

(For an outline of the sermon, see page 14 of this worship folder.)

❖ CREED APOSTLES' CREED

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
Maker of Heaven and earth.

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into Heaven
and sits at the Right Hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the Life ✠ Everlasting. Amen.**

❖ GREETING OF PEACE

All are invited to greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, “Peace be with you,” as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. (*Matt. 5:22–24; Eph. 4:1–3*) Any gesture accompanying this greeting (wave, hand over heart with slight bow, or handshake) is welcome.

OFFERING

(The offerings of God’s people will be received through
electronic giving at rlcary.org or by postal mail.)

MUSICAL OFFERING

Let Your Kingdom Come

**1. Your glorious cause O God Engages our hearts
May Jesus Christ be known Wherever we are
We ask not for ourselves But for Your renown
The cross has saved us so we pray Your kingdom come**

Chorus

**Let Your kingdom come Let Your will be done
So that ev’ryone might know Your Name
Let Your song be heard ev’rywhere on earth
Till Your sov’rign work on earth is done Let Your kingdom come**

**2. Give us Your strength O God And courage to speak
Perform Your wondrous deeds Through those who are weak
Lord use us as You want Whatever the test
By grace we'll preach Your Gospel till Our dying breath**

Chorus

**Let Your kingdom come Let Your will be done
So that ev'ryone might know Your Name
Let Your song be heard ev'rywhere on earth
Till Your sov'reign work on earth is done Let Your kingdom come**

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❖ PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Let us pray for the Church around the world, and all people in their various needs. For all on whom the past lies heavy---the burdens we bring with us today; our family and friends with chronic ills; missionaries facing opposition to the Gospel; and people around the world struggling in poverty, discrimination, and unjust imprisonment---that God would provide them and us patience, strength, and, as fits His plans, relief, let us pray to the Lord.

C **Bring many to saving faith through Your Holy Spirit, and strengthen Your faith-filled people with Your grace and mercy.**

P For all who this day face special joys or sorrows---those who celebrate birthdays and anniversaries; those who have received the blessing of new-found faith; those who have found a restoration of health; those who mourn; those in a health crisis; and those who find themselves alone or forgotten this day---that God would move us to rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep, let us pray to the Lord.

C **Use us this day, Lord Jesus, to be Your hands and feet as we care for the people around us. Grant that we may make Your eternal love real in this day.**

After each portion of the prayers:

P Lord, in your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**

P Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your
mercy for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
C Amen.

❖ **LORD'S PRAYER**

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.

❖ **BENEDICTION**

P The LORD bless you and keep you.
The LORD make His Face to shine on you and be gracious to you.
The LORD look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace. (*Numbers 6:24-26*)
C Amen.

❖ **SONG**

“Come, Follow Me,” the Savior Spake

LSB 688, vs. 1-2, 4-5

1. “Come, follow Me,” the Savior spake, “All in My way abiding;
Deny yourselves, the world forsake, Obey My call and guiding.
O bear the cross, whate’er betide, Take My example for your guide.

2. “I am the light, I light the way, A godly life displaying;
I bid you walk as in the day; I keep your feet from straying.
I am the way, and well I show How you must sojourn here below.

4. “I teach you how to shun and flee What harms your soul’s salvation,
Your heart from ev’ry guile to free, From sin and its temptation.
I am the refuge of the soul And lead you to your heav’nly goal.”

5. Then let us follow Christ, our Lord, And take the cross appointed
And, firmly clinging to His Word, In suffering be undaunted.
For those who bear the battle’s strain The crown of heav’nly life obtain.

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P Go in peace and serve the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

Fanfare – W. Matthias

+ + + + + + + +

Acknowledgments

Portions of the liturgy from Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish. @ Concordia Publishing House. UBP
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Servants in Worship

Preacher.....Rev. Dr. Jonathan Blanke
Liturgist.....Vicar Alan Shaw
Organist/Pianist/Vocalist.....Robert E. Unger, Director of Worship and Music Ministry
Pianist/Vocalist.....Christopher Anderson Reed, Praise Worship Leader
Vocalist.....Rebecca Melland-Kuo
Lector.....Lynn Miller

INSTALLATION OF CONGREGATIONAL OFFICERS

Those to be installed are presented before the altar. The pastor addresses the congregation:

P Beloved in the Lord, Holy Scripture admonishes us that “*all things should be done decently and in order.*” (I Corinthians 14:40) To that end, the constitution and bylaws of this congregation establish various offices to which men and women are elected and appointed to serve. In so doing, the Church follows the example of the Early Christian Church.

P Hear the Word of the Lord through the apostle Peter:

P *As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength God supplies – in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To Him belong glory and dominion forever and ever.* (I Peter 4:10-11)

Each officer is named according to his or her respective office.

P _____ has/have been elected/appointed to serve as _____

The pastor addresses the officers, elected or appointed:

P You have been chosen to fill specific positions of responsibility at Resurrection Lutheran Church. You are to work with the pastors and professional church staff, that our life together in Christ may be orderly and pleasing in His sight.

You are to see that the services of God’s house are held at proper times, that the Word of God is purely preached and taught according to the Lutheran Confessions, that the sacraments of Christ are administered according to His institution, that provision is made for the instruction of young and old, that the erring are admonished, and that discipline is maintained.

While holiness of life and obedience to Christ are expected of all members of the congregation, it is especially important that you, as office-bearers in His Church, show yourselves, by word and example, to be faithful to Him in service and Christian devotion.

P In the Presence of God and of this congregation, I therefore ask you:

P Do you accept the office(s) entrusted to you, and do you promise faithfully to carry out your duties, trusting in the Lord and conforming yourself to His Word in accordance with the faith of the Evangelical Lutheran Church? If so, then answer: “I do.”

R *I do.*

The pastor addresses the congregation:

P Beloved in the Lord, you have heard the promises of faithfulness spoken by these men and women whom you have selected to serve as officers of Resurrection Lutheran Church. Do you promise to support them in their work, to remember them in your prayers, and to work with them to the best of the abilities that God has given you, so that He may be glorified and His Work be done in our midst? If so, then answer: “We do.”

R *We do.*

The pastor addresses the officers, elected or appointed:

P Brothers and sisters in Christ, I install you as officers of Resurrection Lutheran Church in the Name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P The almighty and most merciful God enlighten and strengthen you in your offices that you may be good and faithful stewards to the glory of His name and the good of His people.

C Amen.

P Let us pray.

Lord God, heavenly Father, we give You thanks that You have raised up these servants for work among Your people. We humbly implore You continue to grant them, by Your Holy Spirit, those gifts needed for the faithful carrying out of their tasks, most especially wisdom, strength, and willing hearts. Let Your blessing rest on this congregation. Strengthen the faith, quicken the love, and enkindle the zeal of its members, that Your name may be glorified and that here and in all places under heaven the kingdom of Your Son may be advanced. We remember with thanksgiving those who have faithfully served Your people and have now completed their time of specific service.

P We pray that in the end of days we, with all Your faithful people, may hear the Voice of Christ saying: “Come, you who are blessed by My Father; inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world;” through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, on God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

P Go in the Name of the Lord.

Be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the Work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain. The Almighty and Most Merciful God, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

C **Amen.**

Real Issues, Real Grace, 2: Whether Single or Married, People of Hope
Epiphany 3, 1 Corinthians 7:29–35/Mark 1:14–20

Today is the second of a four-part series on 1 Corinthians. Last week we saw how sex and love are gifted by God. This week we find St. Paul's call to all...whether married or single... to embrace the hope of being God's people for a new purpose. In this time in which we recognize that the kingdom of heaven has drawn near through Jesus (Mk 1:15), both our joys and sorrows are able to fully reveal God's present work in our lives.

1. **In Christ Jesus “the _____ has _____ very _____”** (1 Cor. 7:29). Or, as we read in the Gospel of Mark, “The reign of God has drawn near” (Mark 1:15). With the arrival of Jesus, time is no longer an endless stream of events carrying us along willy-nilly; it has been disrupted/reordered by the reign of God so that mercy and justice might be worked out in the world in and through us.
2. **In light of the reign of God that has drawn near in Jesus, we now understand that _____ in general and _____/_____ more specifically can cause our attention to be “divided” from what truly matters** (1 Cor. 7:35). Married life and the wholesome/pleasurable aspect of sex enjoyed between spouses is to be affirmed. But do we sometimes look to romantic love to tell us we are enough...or live as if a life partner will be our route to transcendence and salvation?
3. **In light of the reign of God that has drawn near in Jesus, both _____ and _____ are called; both are given to follow Jesus and live as people of hope!** Our text makes it clear that single people have value and dignity before God. The single condition is not aberrant, unhealthy, or something to be “fixed.” The gift of life and forgiveness by the cross of Jesus is “the power of God” for *all* who believe (1:24).
4. **The _____ life need not, in the end, be a _____ life; wherever the people of God gather around Word and Sacrament, community and common purpose are renewed, by the Holy Spirit.** The reign of the living God is at work in the world to transform it, in spite of all that is “passing away” (7:31). Embracing the promises of God and a never-dying hope in Christ, we follow Jesus.