

# Worship

*“At the heart of all we do is worship, and at the heart of our worship is the crucified and risen Christ. Everything else we do is formed, nourished, sustained and transformed by our life as a faith community, gathered around word and sacrament, abiding in the love of God. Without this intentional, regular communion with God and each other it’s not possible for us to speak an authentic word of hope to a broken world—the world God so loves.”*

Elizabeth A. Eaton, Presiding Bishop,  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

**Welcome to Resurrection Lutheran Church!** We are delighted that you are worshipping with us.

On most Sundays two services are offered: 8:30 A.M. (traditional) and 11:00 A.M. (contemporary). Although the sacred liturgy is followed in both services, there are some differences, including the style of music. In certain seasons of the church year, or on any particular Sunday, parts of the liturgy might change. For example, on some Sundays our worship includes the sacrament of Holy Baptism. Always, our worship is Gospel-centered and points us to the saving work and resurrection promise of Jesus Christ.

## LUTHERAN WORSHIP LITURGY

**Liturgy** comes from a Greek word meaning “the work of the people.” Liturgical churches are participatory, meaning that people are actively engaged in worship—standing, sitting,

praying, singing, reading, proclaiming, greeting, and receiving. Liturgy refers to a specific pattern or order of worship with roots going back to the early Christian church. We and the thousands of other ELCA congregations are linked to Christians worldwide who follow this same pattern of worship, and to the countless generations preceding ours who worshipped in the same manner.

The worship liturgy usually follows one of the ten settings (worship formats) of **Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW)**, found in the pew racks. *ELW* is the ELCA’s primary worship guide and hymnal. These settings are in the front of *ELW* and are referred to in the worship bulletin by page number; the hymns are identified by hymn number. The information in the bulletin and on the video monitors guides us through worship. If you become confused, please don’t hesitate to ask for help.

We observe the colors, worship patterns, and drama of the Sundays and festivals within the seasons of the Christian Church year which begins with Advent. The seasons that follow are Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, The Three Days (during Holy Week), Easter, and Pentecost. The colors of the clergy vestments, altar paraments, and banners indicate the changing emphases with each festival and season.

We enter the sanctuary with reverence and turn our attention to the reason we gather together: to worship God and to celebrate the life God has given us. During the musical **Prelude**, we listen; offer personal prayers in silence; or read the lessons; psalm, or hymns in preparation for worship.

Our worship follows an ancient order consisting of four parts: **Gathering, Word, Meal** and **Sending**.

## GATHERING

We prepare for worship using a form of **Confession and Forgiveness**. With the sign of the cross, we remember our baptism and together we confess our sins and ask God for forgiveness. As the pastor announces God’s forgiveness, we joyfully hear God’s grace and mercy proclaimed.

We face the Processional Cross in the back of the sanctuary. As the cross is brought forward, we sing a **Gathering Song**. The song is followed by the **Apostolic Greeting** (“*The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all*”), to which we respond, “*And also with you.*” In the **Kyrie** (a Greek word meaning “Lord”) we pray for peace for ourselves and the world. We then sing a **Canticle** (song) of **Praise** followed by the **Prayer of the Day**.

## WORD

We hear God’s Holy Word proclaimed from **Scripture**. The **First Reading** is usually from the **Old Testament**. It is followed by the **Psalms**. The **Second Reading** is normally from one of the New Testament epistles (letters) to the early churches. The **Holy Gospel**, from one of the four books of the New Testament that record the words and deeds of Jesus, completes the readings. Together, they set the theme for the day. They follow a three-year cycle used by many Christian churches throughout the world.

The **Sermon**, based on the readings for the

day, is a proclamation relating the Word of God to us today.

The **Hymn of the Day** is from the church's rich treasury of music, old and new. It reflects the emphasis of the day or the season of the church year and complements the readings and sermon.

In the **Creed** (Nicene or Apostles'), we proclaim our faith. Following are the **Prayers of the Church**, in which we pray for one another, for peace, for guidance, and for the needs of society and the world. We then share God's **Peace** with one another—a sign that we open ourselves to the healing and reconciling power of God's love and offer ourselves to be representatives of that love in the world.

#### MEAL

During the gathering of our gifts, or **Offering**, the table is prepared for the celebration of **Holy Communion**. The offering, together with the bread and wine, is brought to the altar.

The preface of the **Great Thanksgiving** is one of the oldest parts of the liturgy. In it we lift our hearts to God and give thanks and praise. The preface concludes with the glorious words *"with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn: 'Holy, holy, holy,'"* the most ancient and universal of Christian hymns. The Great Thanksgiving continues with the **Eucharistic Prayer**, in which the history of God's salvation is recounted and Jesus' **Words of Institution** of the sacrament are spoken. Using the words that Jesus taught us, we pray the **Lord's Prayer**. The **Lamb of God** may be sung,

acknowledging that God takes away our sin and gives us peace.

**Holy Communion** (also called the **Lord's Supper** or the **Eucharist**) is an especially sacred part of the worship liturgy. We believe that the risen Christ is truly present. It is Christ who invites us to receive this gift of forgiveness and salvation. We practice "open communion", and all baptized Christians may receive this sacrament. Children who have not had communion instruction, as well as others who are not baptized, are invited for a blessing. This is a time to celebrate our unity with Christ.

As the Lord's table is cleared, we may sing a song to rejoice in the gift that God has given us. Holy Communion concludes with prayer.

#### SENDING

As worship ends, we receive **God's Blessing** (benediction) followed by a **Sending Song**. We are sent to continue our participation in God's mission with the words of the **Dismissal** (for example, *"Go in peace. Serve the Lord."* All respond: *"Thanks be to God."*). We go out joyfully to live as Christ's body.

This is how we worship at Resurrection Lutheran Church. Although our **worship** has ended, our **service** is just beginning—service to each other, to our community, and to the world. Please join with us as we respond with thanks and praise.

If you have questions, please speak to a greeter, an usher, or the pastor.

# WELCOME TO *Worship*

AT RESURRECTION LUTHERAN  
CHURCH

#### SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES:

8:30 A.M. — TRADITIONAL  
WORSHIP

11:00 A.M. —  
CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP



6170 Plank Road (Rt. 3),  
Fredericksburg, VA 22407  
10 minutes (5 miles) west of Interstate 95  
(540) 786-7778

RESURRECTION LUTHERAN CHURCH  
IS A CONGREGATION OF THE VIRGINIA SYNOD,  
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA