

Joy



WHEN THEY SAW THE STAR,  
THEY REJOICED EXCEEDINGLY  
WITH GREAT JOY.

MATT 2:10



## **Welcome to St. Luke's Church Sunday, December 11, 2022**

**Our Vision:  
To Know God and To Make Him Known**

*Visitors are not expected to participate in the offering.  
We hope you enjoy visiting with us today. Please come again soon.*

[www.stlukesakron.net](http://www.stlukesakron.net)

## Processional Hymn

### “Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee,  
God of glory, Lord of love;  
Hearts unfold like flowers before thee,  
Opening to the sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;  
Drive the dark of doubt away;  
Giver of immortal gladness,  
Fill us with the light of day.

All thy works with joy surround thee,  
Earth and heaven reflect thy rays,  
Stars and angels sing around thee,  
Center of unbroken praise;  
Field and forest, vale and mountain,  
Flowery meadow, flashing sea,  
Chanting bird and flowing fountain,  
Call us to rejoice in thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving,  
Ever blessing, ever blest,  
Wellspring of the joy of living,  
Ocean depth of happy rest!  
Thou our Father, Christ our Brother,  
All who live in love are thine;  
Teach us how to love each other,  
Lift us to the joy divine.

Mortals join the happy chorus,  
Which the morning stars began;  
Father love is reigning o'er us,  
Brother love binds man to man.  
Ever singing march we onward,  
Victors in the midst of strife;  
Joyful music leads us sunward  
In the triumph song of life.

## Welcome and Call to Worship

Celebrant: Surely the Lord is coming soon.

**All: Amen. Come Lord Jesus!**

## Collect for Purity

**All: Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Celebrant: The Third Candle of Advent is the Candle of Joy. As we light another candle, we are reminded of Christ's light coming into our darkness. This week we light the Candle of Joy. Paul tells us: "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus." We know we cannot live this way on our own, but this is why Jesus came - to help us live. Come Emmanuel, God with us, and empower us by your Holy Spirit to live each day with the joy only you can give.

## Lighting of the Third Candle: The Candle of Joy

**Sung:           Come, Thou long expected Jesus,  
                    Born to set Thy people free;  
                    From our fears and sins release us,  
                    Let us find our rest in Thee.**

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## Collect of the Day

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

**All: And with your spirit.**

Celebrant: O Lord Jesus Christ, you sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries may likewise make ready your way, by turning the hearts of the disobedient toward the wisdom of the just, that at your second coming to judge the world, we may be found a people acceptable in your sight; for with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, one God, now and for ever.

**All: Amen.**

## Praise and Worship

### “O Taste And See”

O taste and see that the Lord is good  
O taste and see that the Lord is good to me  
You have turned my mourning into dancing  
Put off my rags and clothed me with gladness  
And I will arise, and I will praise You  
I'll sing and not be silent

Chorus: O Lord my God  
I will give thanks to You forever  
O Lord my God  
I will give thanks to You  
We bless You Lord

Bridge: I will live only for You  
I will lift these hands up to You  
I will dance before You  
I will shout it I will shout it to You

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### “Enough”

Chorus: All of You is more than enough for  
All of me for every thirst and every need  
You satisfy me with Your love  
And all I have in You is more than enough

You are my supply, my breath of life  
Still more awesome than I know  
You are my reward worth living for  
Still more awesome than I know

You're my sacrifice of greatest price  
Still more awesome than I know  
You're my coming King, You are everything  
Still more awesome than I know

Bridge: More than all I want more than all I need  
You are more than enough for me  
More than all I know more than all I can see  
You are more than enough

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### **"O Come All Ye Faithful"**

Chorus 1: O come, let us adore Him  
O come, let us adore Him  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord

Chorus 2: For He alone is worthy  
For He alone is worthy  
For He alone is worthy, Christ the Lord

Chorus 3: We'll give Him all the glory  
We'll give Him all the glory  
We'll give Him all the glory, Christ the Lord

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

O Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation  
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest

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

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### **The Lessons**

Isaiah 35:1-10  
Psalm 146  
James 5:7-12

*At the end of each reading the lector says:*

Lector: This is the word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## **The Gospel**

**Sung: Rejoice! Rejoice!  
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

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Deacon: Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew 11:2-19.

**All: Glory to You, Lord Christ.**

*At the end of the reading:*

Deacon: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

## **The Message**

### **The Nicene Creed**

Celebrant: Let us confess our faith in the words of the Nicene Creed:

**All: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit, he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

### **The Prayers of the People**

Celebrant: That this Advent Season may be holy, good, and peaceful,

**All: We entreat you, O Lord.**

Celebrant: That your holy angels may lead us in paths of peace and goodwill,

**All: We entreat you, O Lord.**

Celebrant: That we may be pardoned and forgiven for our sins and offenses,

**All: We entreat you, O Lord.**

Celebrant: That there may be peace in your Church and in the whole world,

**All: We entreat you, O Lord.**

Celebrant: That we may depart this life in your faith and fear, and not be condemned before the great judgment seat of Christ,

**All: We entreat you, O Lord.**

Celebrant: That we may be bound together by your Holy Spirit in the communion of all your saints, entrusting one another and all our life to Christ,

**All: We entreat you, O Lord.**

Celebrant: Heavenly Father, grant these our prayers for the sake of Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**All: Amen.**

## **The Confession and Absolution of Sin**

Celebrant: Let us humbly confess our sins to the Lord.

**All: Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.**

**We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.**

**For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

Celebrant: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who in his great mercy has promised forgiveness of sins to all those who sincerely repent and with true faith turn to him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen.**

## **The Comfortable Words**

Celebrant: Hear the Word of God to all who truly turn to him. Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. (Matthew 11:28)

God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16)

The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. (1 Timothy 1:15)

If anyone sins, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world. (1 John 2:1-2)

## **The Peace**

Deacon: The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

**All: And with your spirit.**

Deacon: Exchange with one another the Lord's Peace.



**The Offertory** (*Tithes and offerings are collected at this time*)

Celebrant: Remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

(Acts 20:35)

**"Awake My Soul"**

There is a sound I love to hear  
It's the sound of the Saviour's robe  
As He walks into the room where people pray  
Where we hear praises He hears faith

There is a sound I love to hear  
It's the sound of the Saviour's robe  
As He walks into the room where people pray  
Where we hear worship He hears faith

Chorus: Awake my soul and sing  
Sing His praise aloud  
Sing His praise aloud  
Oh awake my soul and sing  
Sing His praise aloud  
Sing His praise aloud

There is a sound that changes things  
The sound of His people on their knees  
Oh wake up you slumbering  
It's time to worship Him

Bridge 1: And when He moves and when we pray  
Where stood a wall now stands a way  
Where every promise is amen  
And when He moves make no mistake  
The bowels of hell begin to shake  
All hail the Lord all hail the King

Bridge 2: Hey oh, oh let the King of glory enter in  
Hey oh, fall down on your knees and worship Him  
Hey oh, Let His praise rise up don't hold it in

## Doxology

**Sung: Praise God from whom all blessings flow  
Praise Him all creatures here below  
Praise him above ye heavenly host  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

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Celebrant: All things come of you, O Lord.

**All: And of Your own have we given You.**

## The Great Thanksgiving

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

**All: And with your spirit.**

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift them up to the Lord.**

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All: It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

Celebrant: It is right, our duty and our joy, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great glory to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

## The Sanctus

**Sung: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,  
Heaven and earth are filled with your glory.  
Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,  
Heaven and earth are filled with your glory.  
Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.  
Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord,  
Hosanna in the highest!**

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Celebrant: Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and when we had sinned against you and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent your only Son into the world for our salvation.

By the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary he became flesh and dwelt among us. In obedience to your will, he stretched out his arms upon the cross and offered himself once for all, that by his suffering and death we might be saved.

By his resurrection he broke the bonds of death, trampling Hell and Satan under his feet. As our great high priest, he ascended to your right hand in glory; that we might come with confidence before the throne of grace.

On the night that he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat; this is my Body which is given for you: Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, Jesus took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink this, all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for you, and for many, for the forgiveness of sins: Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me."

### **Mystery of Faith**

Deacon: Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**All: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Celebrant: We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, and we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Word and Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

Sanctify us also, that we may worthily receive this holy sacrament, and be made one body with him, so that he may dwell in us and we in him. And bring us with all your saints into the fullness of your heavenly kingdom, where we shall see our Lord:

**All: Face to Face.**

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever.

**All: Amen.**

Celebrant: And now as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray:

**All: Our Father Who art in Heaven hallowed be Thy name  
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done  
On earth as 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 the power and the glory  
Forever and ever. Amen.**

### **The Breaking of the Bread**

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us.

**All: Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

### **The Agnus Dei**

**Sung: Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.  
Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.  
Jesus, redeemer of the world, give us your peace.**

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Celebrant: The gifts of God, for the people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

Celebrant: The Body of Christ, the Bread of Heaven.  
The Blood of Christ, the Cup of Salvation.

### **Music During Communion**

#### **"Seek Ye First"**

Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness  
And all these things shall be added unto you  
Allelu, Alleluia

Ask and it shall be given unto you; seek and ye shall find  
Knock and it shall be opened unto you  
Allelu, Alleluia

Man shall not live by bread alone but by every word  
That proceeds from the mouth of God  
Allelu, Alleluia

Karen Lafferty ©1972 Maranatha! Music CCLI 73146

### **“Land Of The Living”**

One thing I ask of You this is what I seek  
That I may dwell in Your house  
Feel Your pleasure wash over me  
One thing I ask of You this is what I need  
That I may hide in Your hands  
Feel Your presence fall over me

Chorus: And I am confident of this one thing  
That my eyes will be blessed  
When they gaze upon Your beauty  
And my lips will be sweet  
When they whisper words of praise  
And my heart will be dancing  
When it knows that You are with me  
And I will see Your goodness  
In the land of the living

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### **Post Communion Prayer**

**All: Heavenly Father, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom.**

**And now, Father, send us out into the world to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.**

Celebrant: All our problems

**All: We send to the cross of Christ**

Celebrant: All our difficulties

**All: We send to the cross of Christ**

Celebrant: All the devil's works

**All: We send to the cross of Christ**

Celebrant: And all of hopes

**All: We set on the risen Christ**

## **The Blessing**

## **The Recessional**

### **“Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”**

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee,  
God of glory, Lord of love;  
Hearts unfold like flowers before thee,  
Opening to the sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;  
Drive the dark of doubt away;  
Giver of immortal gladness,  
Fill us with the light of day.

All thy works with joy surround thee,  
Earth and heaven reflect thy rays,  
Stars and angels sing around thee,  
Center of unbroken praise;  
Field and forest, vale and mountain,  
Flowering meadow, flashing sea,  
Chanting bird and flowing fountain,  
Call us to rejoice in thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving,  
Ever blessing, ever blest,  
Wellspring of the joy of living,  
Ocean depth of happy rest!  
Thou our Father, Christ our Brother,  
All who live in love are thine;  
Teach us how to love each other,  
Lift us to the joy divine.

Mortals join the happy chorus,  
Which the morning stars began;  
Father love is reigning o'er us,  
Brother love binds man to man.  
Ever singing march we onward,  
Victors in the midst of strife;  
Joyful music leads us sunward  
In the triumph song of life.

Edward Hodges | Henry Van Dyke | Ludwig van Beethoven © Words & Music:  
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### **The Dismissal**

Deacon: Let us go forth in the Name of Christ.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**This Week at St. Luke's Church, December 12<sup>th</sup> - December 18<sup>th</sup>**

**Monday**

Boy Scout Troop 411, 7:00-8:30 PM (The Harbor)

**Tuesday**

Worship With the Word, 6:00-8:00 PM (Sanctuary)

Stage 4 Ministry, 6:30-8:30 PM (Lower Conference Room)

Women's Group, 7:00-8:30 PM (Common Room)

**Wednesday**

**Thursday**

Stage 4 Ministry, 9:30 AM-12:30 PM (Lower Conference Room)

**Friday**

**Saturday**

Men's Group, 9:00-10:30 AM (Café)

**Sunday**

Sunday Morning Worship, 10:00 AM (Sanctuary)

Small Group Leaders Meeting, 12:30-2:00 PM (Rector's Office)

*Bethel Akron Worship, 5:00-7:00 PM (Sanctuary & Upper Level)*

Youth Group, 6:30-8:30 PM (The Harbor)

**Upcoming:**

Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Eve Service, 5:00 PM

Dec. 25<sup>th</sup> – NO SERVICE

**Readings for December 18: Isaiah 7:10-17, Psalm 24,  
Romans 1:1-7, Matthew 1:18-25**