



Welcome to St. Luke's Church Sunday, December 12, 2021

**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.*

Phone: 330-665-2227 Email: office@stlukesakron.com
Or visit our website: www.stlukesakron.net

Processional Hymn

O Thou Joyful, O Thou Wonderful

O thou joyful, O thou wonderful
Grace revealing Christmastide!
Jesus came to win us from all sin within us;
Glorify the holy Child!

O thou joyful, O thou wonderful
Love revealing Christmastide!
Loud hosannas singing and all praises bringing:
May Thy love with us abide!

O thou joyful, O thou wonderful
Peace revealing Christmastide!
Darkness disappeareth, God's own light now neareth:
Peace and joy to all betide!

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Welcome and Call to Worship

Celebrant: Surely the Lord is coming soon.

All: Amen. Come Lord Jesus!

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: O come, thou rod of Jesse's stem,
from every foe deliver them
that trust thy mighty power to save,
and give them vict'ry o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

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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.

The Summary of the Law

Celebrant: Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ says: You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets. (Matthew 22:37-40)

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

“Mighty to Save”

Everyone needs compassion; love that's never failing
Let mercy fall on me
Everyone needs forgiveness, the kindness of a Savior
The hope of nations

Chorus: Savior, He can move the mountains
My God is mighty to save, He is mighty to save
Forever, Author of salvation
He rose and conquered the grave
Jesus conquered the grave

So take me as You find me, all my fears and failures
Fill my life again
I give my life to follow, everything I believe in
Now I surrender (Chorus)

Bridge: Shine your light and let the whole world see
We're singing for the glory of the risen King Jesus
Shine your light and let the whole world see
We're singing for the glory of the risen King

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“Bless the Lord”

Chorus: And I will worship You
I will bless Your name forever. I will worship You
Bless the Lord, oh my soul, bless the Lord
Bless the Lord, oh my soul, bless the Lord

For Your beauty, for Your goodness
And Your wisdom, awesome God
Praise the Lord, oh my soul, praise the Lord

For Your power, for Your honor
And Your splendor, mighty God
Praise the Lord, oh my soul, praise the Lord
Praise the Lord, oh my soul, praise the Lord (Chorus)

For Your kindness, for Your favor
For Your mercy, gracious One
Thank the Lord, oh my soul, thank the Lord
For Your fire, for Your testing, and Your Spirit, Holy One
Thank the Lord, oh my soul, thank the Lord
Thank the Lord, oh my soul, thank the Lord (Chorus)

For Your suff'ring, for Your anguish
And Your sorrow, humble King
Bless the Lord, oh my soul, bless the Lord
Bless the Lord, oh my soul, bless the Lord
For Your vict'ry, for Your triumph
And You'll soon come and reign over us! (Chorus)

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“Glory”

Glory, glory and honor to the King, Emmanuel.
Worship, worship and praises to the King, Emmanuel.
For God alone is worthy. His love flows from the throne.
We bow to You and exalt Your Name, today and evermore.

Righteous, righteous and holy is the King, Emmanuel.
Faithful, faithful and mighty is the King, Emmanuel.
For God alone is worthy. His love flows from the throne.
We bow to You and exalt Your Name, today and evermore.

Abba, Abba Father. You're my King, Emmanuel.
My Lord, my Lord God Almighty
You're my King, Emmanuel.
For God alone is worthy. His love flows from the throne.
We bow to You and exalt Your Name, today and evermore.

For You alone are worthy,
Your love flows from your throne.
I bow to You and exalt Your Name, today and evermore.

Announcements

The Lessons

Zephaniah 3:14-20

Psalm 85

Philippians 4:4-9

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: Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, Born is the King of Israel.

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Deacon: Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke 3:7-20.

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

Celebrant: Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. (Matthew 5:16)

“Emmanuel, You’re One of Us”

It just doesn't feel like Christmas at all
It's so hard to forget about all that went on
Some friends lost their jobs and some family too
Some people said it was all down to you

Chorus: I know Emmanuel you're one of us
You left your throne to wear our scars
Though Christmas lights may lose their spark
And winter's cold may break our hearts
Christmas means Emmanuel you're one of us

Maybe it is Christmas time after all
The carols are soaring the fire's roaring on
This year's had its trials but sweet mercies too
Glad tidings of joy and they're all down to you

Bridge: So sister and brother be kind to each other
We've all had a journey our own path to wander
The light will come just know you're not alone

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Celebrant: All things come of you, O Lord.

All: And of Your own have we given You.

The Great Thanksgiving

(We invite all baptized Christians to join us at the Lord's table.)

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 Most
Holy, Holy, Holy Lord Most High
All glory power and praise
And blessing now we raise
For You alone can save**

Dan Morgan ©

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 Prayer of Humble Access

All: We do not presume to come to this, your table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your abundant and great mercies.

We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table; but you are the same Lord, whose character is always to have mercy.

Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body, and our souls washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

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

"I Hear a Sound"

I hear a sound coming from the mountain,
I hear it louder each day.
I hear a sound coming from the mountain
And it says, "Prepare ye the way."

Chorus: Prepare ye the way, Prepare ye the way,
 Prepare ye the way of the Lord.

I see the King standing on the mountain,
I see Him clearer each day.
I see the King standing on the mountain,
And He says, "Prepare ye the way." (Chorus)

I feel God's love streaming from the mountain,
I feel it stronger each day.
I feel God's love streaming from the mountain,
And it says, "Prepare ye the way." (Chorus)

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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

"Angels From The Realms Of Glory / Emmanuel"

Angels, from the realms of glory
Wing your flight o'er all the earth
Ye, who sang creation's story
Now proclaim Messiah's birth

Refrain: Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the new-born King.

Shepherds in the field abiding
Watching o'er your flocks by night
God with man is now residing
Yonder shines the infant Light (Refrain)

Chorus:

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, You are the God who saves us
Worthy of all our praises
Emmanuel, Emmanuel, come have Your way among us
We welcome You here Lord Jesus

Sages, leave your contemplations
Brighter visions beam afar
Seek the great Desire of nations
Ye have seen his natal star (Refrain)

Saints before the altar bending
Watching long in hope and fear
Suddenly the Lord, descending
In his temple shall appear (Refrain)

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The Dismissal

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

All: Thanks be to God.

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.

This Week at St. Luke's Church, December 13th – 19th

Monday

Vestry Meeting, 6:30-9pm (Common Room)

Tuesday

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

Wednesday

M.O.P.S. & MOMSnext, 9:30-11:00 AM (Café & Common Room)

Thursday

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

Morning Intercession Group, 9:30 AM-11:30 PM (Sanctuary)

Christmas Eve Choir Rehearsal, 6:00-7:0 PM (Sanctuary)

Friday

'The Chosen' w/ dessert & discussion, 7:00-9:00 PM
(Café & Sanctuary)

Saturday

Men's Group, 9:00-10:30 AM (Café)

Christmas Basket Distribution, 12:30-2pm (Common Room)

Sunday

Morning Worship, 9:30 AM (Sanctuary)

Youth Group, 6:30 -8:30 PM (Teen Center)

Coming Up:

Dec 24th - Christmas Eve Service, 7:00 PM

Dec 25th - Christmas Day Service, 10:00 AM

**Readings for December 19: Micah 5:2-5a, Psalm 80:1-7,
Hebrews 10:1-10, Luke 1:39-56**