



# **Welcome to St. Luke's Church Sunday, December 6, 2020**

**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.*

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Or visit our website: [www.stlukesakron.net](http://www.stlukesakron.net)

## Processional Hymn

### "O Come All Ye Faithful"

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;

Refrain: O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above;  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest. (Refrain)

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. (Refrain)

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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.

## 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.

## Announcements

## Praise and Worship

### “I Will Call Upon the Lord”

I will call upon the Lord (echo)

Who is worthy to be praised (echo)

So shall I be saved from my enemies (echo)

The Lord liveth and blessed be my Rock  
And may the God of my salvation be exalted.  
The Lord liveth and blessed be my Rock  
And may the God of my salvation be exalted.

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### **"I Will Bless the Lord"**

Chorus: I will bless the Lord and give Him glory,  
Oh I will bless His name, and give Him glory.

The Lord is gracious, and merciful,  
Great in kindness, and good to all.  
The Lord is righteous in all His ways.  
Bless the Lord and give Him praise. (Chorus)

He's near to all who call on Him,  
and loves the righteous Who fear His name.  
He'll reign forever as Lord and King.  
Lift your voice with praise and sing. (Chorus)

The Lord is mighty and strong to save,  
Slow to anger and swift to bless.  
He so loved the world that He gave His Son.  
The battle's o'er, the vict'ry's won! (Chorus)

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### **"I Bless Your Name"**

In prisoner's chains with bleeding stripes  
Paul and Silas prayed that night  
And in their pain began to sing  
Their chains were loosed and they were free

Chorus 1: I bless Your Name, I bless Your Name  
I give You honor, give You praise  
You are the Life the Truth the Way  
I bless Your Name, I bless Your Name

Some midnight hour if you should find  
You're in a prison in your mind  
Reach out and praise, defy those chains  
And they will fall in Jesus' Name

Chorus 2: We bless Your Name, we bless Your Name  
We give You honor give You praise  
You are the Life the Truth the Way  
We bless Your Name, We bless Your Name

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### **"The Song of Moses"**

And we sing the song of Moses,  
The servant of God, and the song of the Lamb;  
Saying great, great and marvelous  
Are Your works, Lord God Almighty.  
Just and true are your ways, Lord, O King of the saints,  
Who shall not fear You, O Lord?

Hallelujah, O hallelujah, hallelujah, O hallelujah  
Hallelujah, O hallelujah, hallelujah, O hallelujah  
Hallelujah!

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### **"We Bow Down"**

We bow down and confess You are Lord in this place  
We bow down and confess You are Lord in this place  
You are all I need, it's Your face I seek  
In the presence of Your light we bow down we bow down

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## The Lessons

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

Lector: This is the word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

Isaiah 65:17-25

Psalm 126

1 Thessalonians 5:12-28

## The Gospel

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

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Lector: The Lord be with you.

**All: And with your spirit.**

Deacon: Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John 3:22-30

**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)

### “Oceans “

You call me out upon the waters  
The great unknown where feet may fail  
And there I find You in the mystery  
In oceans deep my faith will stand

Chorus: And I will call upon Your name  
And keep my eyes above the waves  
When oceans rise my soul will rest in Your embrace  
For I am Yours and You are mine

Your grace abounds in deepest waters  
Your sovereign hand will be my guide  
Where feet may fail and fear surrounds me  
You've never failed and You won't start now (Chorus)

Bridge:  
Spirit lead me where my trust is without borders  
Let me walk upon the waters wherever You would call me  
Take me deeper than my feet could ever wander  
And my faith will be made stronger  
In the presence of my Savior

Ending: I will call upon Your name  
Keep my eyes above the waves  
My soul will rest in Your embrace  
I am Yours and You are mine

Celebrant: All things come of you O Lord  
**All: And of Your own have we given You.**

### **The Great Thanksgiving**

Celebrant: It has long been the Church's understanding that when circumstances prevent one from receiving Holy Communion in person, it is possible to make an Act of Spiritual Communion, which is a source of grace.

Spiritual Communion is an ardent desire to receive the Sacrament at a time or in circumstances when one cannot receive Him in sacramental Communion.

Please join me and those who have joined us virtually in the prayer of Spiritual Communion.

**All: Dear Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament. I love you above all things, and I desire to possess you within my soul. And since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. I unite myself to you, together with all your faithful people gathered around every altar of your Church, and I embrace you with all the affections of my soul. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.**

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:

**All: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord, God of power and might,  
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord,  
Hosanna in the highest!**

### **The Prayer of Consecration**

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**

Celebrant or 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:**

#### **"It Came Upon The Midnight Clear"**

It came upon the midnight clear that glorious song of old  
From angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold  
Peace on the earth good will to men  
From heaven's all gracious King  
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing

Still thro' the cloven skies they come with peaceful wings unfurled  
And still their heavenly music floats o'er all the weary world  
Above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hovering wing  
And ever o'er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing

For lo! the days are hastening on by prophets seen of old  
When with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold  
When peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling  
And the whole world give back the song  
Which now the angels sing

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#### **"O Little Town of Bethlehem"**

O little town of Bethlehem how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
The silent stars go by  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth, the everlasting Light  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
Are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary and gathered all above,  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep  
Their watch of wond'ring love.

O morning stars together proclaim the holy birth!  
And praises sing to God the King  
And peace to men on earth.

How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is giv'n!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
The blessings of His heav'n.  
No ear may hear His coming but in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive Him  
Still the dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem! Descend to us, we pray  
Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell  
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

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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

### "Joy To The World"

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

Joy to the world! The Savior reigns  
Let men their songs employ  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy

No more let sins and sorrows 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

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

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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.

**Readings for December 20: 2 Samuel 7:1-17,  
Psalm 132:8-19, Romans 16:25-27, Luke 1:26-38**