



Hope  
Peace  
Joy  
& Love

**Welcome to St. Luke's Church  
Sunday, December 14, 2025**

**Third Sunday of Advent**

**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.com](http://www.stlukesakron.com)

## Processional Hymn

### “Even So”

All of creation, all of the earth  
Make straight a highway, a path for the Lord  
Jesus is coming soon

Call back the sinner, wake up the saint  
Let every nation shout of Your fame  
Jesus is coming soon

Chorus: Like a bride waiting for her groom  
We'll be a church ready for You  
Every heart longing for our King  
We sing, even so come Lord Jesus, come  
Even so come Lord Jesus, come

There will be justice, all will be new  
Your name forever, faithful and true  
Jesus is coming soon

Bridge: So we wait, we wait for You  
God, we wait, Your coming soon

Chris Tomlin | Jason Ingram | Jess Cates (L. Hackett) © 2015 S. D. G. Publishing,  
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## 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.**

## Lighting of the Advent Wreath

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 Advent Candles: The Candle of Joy

**Sung:**            **Born Thy people to deliver,  
Born a child, and yet a king,  
Born to reign in us for ever,  
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.**

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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

### “Garments of Praise”

Chorus:

Put on the garments of praise for the spirit of heaviness  
Let the oil of gladness flow down from Your throne  
Put on the garments of praise for the spirit of heaviness  
Your joy is my strength alone, my strength alone

Make these broken weary bones rise to dance again  
Wet this dry and thirsty land with a river  
Lord our eyes are fixed on You and we are waiting  
For Your garland of grace, as we praise Your name

Bridge:

Hallelujah, sing hallelujah  
We give all honor and praise to Your name  
Hallelujah, sing hallelujah  
We trade our sorrows for garments of praise

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### “All Who Are Thirsty”

All who are thirsty, all who are weak  
Come to the fountain, dip your heart in the stream of life  
Let the pain and the sorrow be washed away  
In the waves of his mercy as deep cries out to deep  
We sing

Come Lord Jesus come (x2)

All who are thirsty, all who are weak  
Come to the fountain, dip your heart in the stream of life  
Let the pain and the sorrow be washed away  
In the waves of his mercy as deep cries out to deep  
We sing

Holy Spirit Come (x2)

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## “Worthy Of It All”

All the saints and angels they bow before Your throne  
All the elders cast their crowns  
Before the Lamb of God and sing

Chorus: You are worthy of it all, You are worthy of it all  
For from You are all things  
And to You are all things, You deserve the glory

Bridge: Day and night night and day let incense arise  
Day and night night and day let incense arise

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## Children Released for Sunday School / Announcements

### The Lessons

**Old Testament Reading** – Isaiah 35:1-10

**Psalms** – Psalm 146 (*read responsively*)

**New Testament Reading** – James 5:7-20

### The Gospel

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

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.**

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

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## **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 worshipped 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**

Deacon: Let us pray for the Church and for the world, saying, "Hear our prayer." For the peace of the whole world, and for the well-being and unity of the people of God. Lord, in your mercy:

**All: Hear our prayer.**

Deacon: We pray for Steve, our Archbishop, and Julian, our Provincial Dean during the Archbishop's leave of absence. Lord, in your mercy:

**All: Hear our prayer.**

Deacon: We pray for Mark, our Bishop, for Allen, our Suffragan Bishop, and for all the clergy and people of our diocese and congregation. Lord, in your mercy:

**All: Hear our prayer.**

Deacon: Gracious Father, Look favorably on your holy catholic church. Fill it with all truth, in all truth with all peace. Where it is corrupt, purify it; where it is in error, direct it; where in anything it is amiss, reform it. Where it is right, strengthen it; where it is in want, provide for it; where it is divided, reunite it; for the sake of Jesus Christ your Son our Savior. Lord, in your mercy:

**All: Hear our prayer.**

Deacon: We pray for the diocesan Search Committee for our next bishop. Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on your Church, and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a Bishop for this Diocese that we may receive a faithful pastor who will preach the Gospel, care for your people, equip us for ministry, and lead us forth in fulfillment of the Great Commission; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Lord, in your mercy:

**All: Hear our prayer.**

Deacon: For all those who proclaim the Gospel at home and abroad; and for all who teach and disciple others. Lord, in your mercy:

**All: Hear our prayer.**

Deacon: For our brothers and sisters in Christ who are persecuted for their faith. Lord, in your mercy:

**All: Hear our prayer.**

Deacon: For our nation, for those in authority, and for all in public service, especially our Donald, our President, Mike, our Governor, and our senators and representatives. Lord, in your mercy:

**All: Hear our prayer.**

Deacon: For all those who are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity. Lord, in your mercy:

**All: Hear our prayer.**

Deacon: For all those who have departed this life in the certain hope of the resurrection, in thanksgiving let us pray. Lord, in your mercy:

**All: Hear our prayer.**

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 for ever.

**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**

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

**All: And with your spirit.**

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

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

Celebrant: Our offertory sentences are from scripture. "Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God."  
(Hebrews 13:16)

### **"Come Lord Jesus"**

When the war is over and the battles are done  
We shall see our Savior shining like the sun

Every tear He will dry every shadow will flee  
All those in Christ Jesus will be made complete  
Will be made complete

Chorus: Come Lord Jesus listen to creation groan  
Come Lord Jesus come and take Your people home

Every tongue will praise Him every knee will bow  
When we see our Savior riding on the clouds  
Riding on the clouds

Bridge: Now we see in part then we'll see in full  
Your glory Jesus will satisfy our souls

## **Doxology** *[All rise]*

**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**

*[We invite all baptized Christians to join us at the Lord's table. We offer communion in the form of bread, wafer, gluten-free wafer, or individually packaged juice and wafer. Once received, step left to drink from the communal cup, or step to the right to intinct (dip) the wafer.]*

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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## **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**

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 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, 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**

**Sung: We do not presume to come to Your table  
Trusting in our own righteousness  
For we are not worthy so much as to gather  
The crumbs from under Your table**

**But trusting O Lord in Your great and manifold mercies  
For You are the same Lord  
Whose nature is always to have mercy**

**So cleanse us and feed us  
With the body and blood of Your son  
That we may live in Him and that He may live in us  
Forever and ever Amen**

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### **The Agnus Dei**

Celebrant: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world

**All: Have mercy on us.**

Celebrant: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world

**All: Have mercy on us.**

Celebrant: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world

**All: Grant us your peace.**

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.

### **Music During Communion:**

#### **“Light Of The World (Sing Hallelujah)”**

Light of the World Treasure of Heaven  
Brilliant like the stars in the wintery sky  
Joy of the Father reach through the darkness  
Shine across the earth send the shadows to flight

Light of the World from the beginning  
The tragedies of time were no match for Your love  
From great heights of glory You saw my story  
God You entered in and became one of us

Chorus: Sing hallelujah, sing hallelujah  
Sing hallelujah for the things He has done  
Come and adore Him, bow down before Him  
Sing hallelujah to the Light of the World

Light of the world crown in a manger  
Born for the cross to suffer to save  
High King of Heaven death is the poorer  
We are the richer by the price that He paid

Light of the World soon will be coming  
With fire in His eyes He will ransom His own  
Through clouds He will lead us straight into glory  
And there He shall reign forevermore forevermore

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### **“O Come Let Us Adore Him”**

O come let us adore Him O come let us adore Him  
O come let us adore Him Christ the Lord

For You alone are worthy For You alone are worthy  
For You alone are worthy Christ the Lord

We'll give You all the glory We'll give You all the glory  
We'll give You all the glory Christ the Lord

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

## **The Blessing**

## **The Recessional**

### **"Even So"**

All of creation, all of the earth  
Make straight a highway, a path for the Lord  
Jesus is coming soon

Call back the sinner, wake up the saint  
Let every nation shout of Your fame  
Jesus is coming soon

Chorus: Like a bride waiting for her groom  
We'll be a church ready for You  
Every heart longing for our King  
We sing, even so come Lord Jesus, come  
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There will be justice, all will be new  
Your name forever, faithful and true  
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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 15<sup>th</sup> – December 21<sup>st</sup>**

### **Monday**

Creative Journaling, 6:00-9:00 PM (Tompkin's Glory Barn)

Boy Scout Troop 411, 6:30-9:00 PM (The Harbor)

Vestry Meeting, 6:30-9:00 PM (Conference Room)

### **Tuesday**

Worship With the Word, 6:30-8:30 PM (Sanctuary)

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

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

### **Wednesday**

MomCo, 9:30-11:30 AM (Café)

### **Thursday**

Stage 4 Ministry, 9:30-11:30 AM (Common Room)

### **Friday**

*Church Offices CLOSED*

### **Saturday**

Men's Group, 9:30-11:00 AM (Lower Kitchenette)

### **Sunday**

Sunday Morning Worship, 10:00 AM (Sanctuary)

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

### **Upcoming**

Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Eve Service, 7:00 PM

Dec. 25<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Day Service, 10:00 AM

**Readings for December 21: Isaiah 7:10-17 ○ Psalm 24  
Romans 1:1-17 ○ Matthew 1:18-25**