



**Welcome to St. Luke's Church  
Sunday, December 15, 2024**

**3<sup>rd</sup> 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

### “Come Thou Long Expected Jesus”

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.

Israel’s strength and consolation,  
Hope of all the earth Thou art;  
Dear desire of every nation,  
Joy of every longing heart.

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

By Thine own eternal Spirit  
Rule in all our hearts alone:  
By Thine all-sufficient merit  
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

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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.**

## Collect for Advent (Lighting of the Advent Wreath)

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

**All: And with your spirit.**

Celebrant: Almighty God, you pour on us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**All: Amen**

### **Collect of the Day**

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**

#### **“How Great is Our God”**

The splendor of a King, clothed in majesty  
Let all the earth rejoice, all the earth rejoice  
He wraps Himself in light, and darkness tries to hide  
And trembles at His voice, and trembles at His voice

Chorus: How great is our God! Sing with me  
How great is our God! And all will see  
How great, how great is our God

Age to age He stands, and time is in His hands  
Beginning and the end. Beginning and the end  
The Godhead Three in One, Father, Spirit, Son  
The Lion and the Lamb, the Lion and the Lamb (Chorus)

Name above all Names, worthy of all praise  
My heart will sing: How great is our God (Chorus)

## **“Good, Good Father”**

I've heard a thousand stories of what they think You're like  
But I've heard the tender whisper of love in the dead of night  
You tell me that You're pleased and that I'm never alone

Chorus: You're a Good, Good Father  
It's who You are, it's who You are  
It's who You are  
And I'm loved by You, it's who I am  
It's who I am, It's who I am

I've seen many searching for answers far and wide  
But I know we're all searching for answers only You provide  
Because You know just what we need before we say a word

Bridge: You are perfect in all of Your ways  
You are perfect in all of Your ways  
You are perfect in all of Your ways to us

Love so undeniable I can hardly speak  
Peace so unexplainable I can hardly think  
As You call me deeper still, as You call me deeper still  
As You call me deeper still into love, love, love

Anthony Brown | Pat Barrett©2014 Capitol CMG Paragon, Common Hymnal  
Publishing, Housefires Sounds, sixsteps Music, Tony Brown Publishing  
Designee, Vamos Publishing, worshiptogether.com songs CCLI # 73146

## **“Agnus Dei”**

Alleluia, Alleluia for our Lord God Almighty reigns  
Alleluia, Alleluia for our Lord God Almighty reigns

Alleluia, Holy, Holy, are You Lord God, Almighty  
Worthy is the Lamb, worthy is the Lamb

You are Holy, Holy are You Lord God, Almighty  
Worthy is the Lamb, worthy is the Lamb  
Amen.

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## 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:**           **O come, thou Day-spring from on high  
And cheer us by thy drawing nigh  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night  
And death's dark shadow put to flight.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.**

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.**

**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 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**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Deacon: 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.**

Deacon: 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**

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. 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)

### **"In the Highest"**

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## **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.**

Louis Bourgeois | Thomas Ken © Words & Music: Public Domain Music CCLI# 73146

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, or gluten-free 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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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 that He may live in us  
For ever 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**

### **“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

David Brymer | Ryan Hall © 2012 Forerunner Worship 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**

### **"The Blessing"**

The Lord bless you and keep you  
Make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you  
The Lord turn His face toward you and give you peace

Chorus: Amen, amen, amen, amen, amen, amen

May His favor be upon you  
And a thousand generations  
Your family and your children  
And their children, and their children

May His presence go before you  
And behind you, and beside you  
All around you, and within you  
He is with you, He is with you

In the morning, in the evening  
In your coming, and your going  
In your weeping, and rejoicing  
He is for you, He is for you

He is for you, He is for you  
He is for you, He is for you  
He is for you, He is for you

Kari Jobe Songwriters: Cody Carnes / Kari Brooke Jobe / Steven Furtick  
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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 16<sup>th</sup> – December 22<sup>nd</sup>**

### **Monday**

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

### **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**

MomCo, 9:30-11:30 AM (Café)

Advent Prayer, 12:00-2:00 PM (Sanctuary)

Advent Prayer, 5:00-7:00 PM (Sanctuary)

### **Thursday**

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

Bell Choir Cleaning Party, 6:00-8:00 PM (Sanctuary)

### **Friday**

### **Saturday**

Men's Breakfast, 8:30-11:00 AM (The Harbor)

### **Sunday**

Sunday Morning Worship, 10:00 AM (Sanctuary)

Bell Choir Rehearsal, 12:30-3:00 PM (Sanctuary)

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

### **Upcoming:**

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

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

January 3<sup>rd</sup> – 'Meeting w God' Service, 7:00 PM

January 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> – "Create" Worship Arts Retreat

January 19<sup>th</sup> – Annual Meeting, 12:30 PM

February 9<sup>th</sup> – Souper Bowl Party & Chili Cook-Off, 5:30 PM

**Readings for December 22: Micah 5:2-5a, Psalm 80:1-7,  
Hebrews 10:1-10, Luke 1:39-56**