



**Welcome to St. Luke's Church
Sunday, December 17, 2023**

The 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

Processional

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

O come, O come, Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel

O come, Thou Wisdom from on high
Who orderest all things mightily
To us the path of knowledge show
And teach us in her ways to go
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel

O come, thou branch of Jesse's tree
Free them from Satan's tyranny
That trust Thy mighty power to save
And give them victory o'er the grave
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

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Opening Sentence

Officiant: Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be always acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my rock, and my redeemer.

Psalm 19:14

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 Third Candle: 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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Confession of Sin

Officiant: Let us humbly confess our sins to Almighty God.

All sitting or kneeling as able.

All: Almighty and most merciful Father, we have erred and strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts.

We have offended against your holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done, and we have done those things which we ought not to have done; and apart from your grace, there is no health in us.

O Lord, have mercy upon us. Spare all those who confess their faults. Restore all those who are penitent, according to your promises declared to all people in Christ Jesus our Lord.

And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake, that we may now live a godly, righteous, and sober life, to the glory of your holy Name. Amen.

Officiant: Grant to your faithful people, merciful Lord, pardon, and peace; that we may be cleansed from all our sins and serve you with a quiet mind; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Invitatory

All stand.

Officiant: O Lord, open our lips,

All: And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Officiant: O God, make speed to save us,

All: Lord, make haste to help us.

Officiant: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,

All: As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Officiant: Praise the Lord.

All: The Lord's Name be praised.

Seasonal Antiphon

Officiant: Our King and Savior now draws near:

All: O Come, let us adore him. Alleluia.

Venite

All: O come, let us sing unto the Lord; let us heartily rejoice in the strength of our salvation. Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving and show ourselves glad in him with psalms.

For the Lord is a great God and a great King above all gods. In his hand are all the depths of the earth, and the heights of the hills are his also. The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands prepared the dry land.

O come, let us worship and fall down, and kneel before the Lord our Maker. For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.

Today, if you will hear his voice, harden not your hearts as in the provocation, and as in the day of temptation in the wilderness, when your fathers tested me, and put me to the proof, though they had seen my works.

Forty years long was I grieved with this generation and said, "It is a people that err in their hearts, for they have not known my ways," of whom I swore in my wrath that they should not enter into my rest.

Officiant: Our King and Savior now draws near:

All: O Come, let us adore him. Alleluia.

Praise and Worship

“Way Maker”

You are here moving in our midst
I worship You I worship You
You are here working in this place
I worship You I worship You

Chorus: (You are) Way Maker, Miracle Worker
Promise Keeper, Light in the darkness
My God that is who You are

You are here touching every heart
I worship You I worship You
You are here healing every heart
I worship You I worship You

You are here turning lives around
I worship You I worship You
You are here mending every heart
I worship You yeah I worship You Lord

Tag: That is who You are, that is who You are
That is who You are, that is who You are

Bridge: Even when I don't see it You're working
Even when I don't feel it You're working
You never stop You never stop working
You never stop You never stop working

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“Here I Am To Worship”

Light of the world You stepped down into darkness
Opened my eyes let me see
Beauty that made this heart adore You
Hope of a life spent with You

Chorus: Here I am to worship, here I am to bow down
Here I am to say that You're my God
You're altogether love, altogether worthy
Altogether wonderful to me

King of all days, O so highly exalted
Glorious in heaven above
Humbly You came to the earth You created
All for love's sake became poor

Bridge: I'll never know how much it cost
To see my sin upon that Cross

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“Revelation Song”

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain Holy, Holy, is He
Sing a new song, to him who sits on heaven's mercy seat

Chorus: Holy, Holy, Holy Is the Lord God Almighty
Who was, and is, and is to come
With all creation I sing praise to the King of Kings
You are my everything and I will adore You

Clothed in rainbows, of living color
Flashes of lightning, rolls of thunder
Blessing and honor, strength and glory and power be
to You the only wise King (Chorus)

Filled with wonder, awestruck wonder
At the mention of your name
Jesus your name is power, breath, and living water
Such a marvelous mystery. (Chorus)

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Dismissal of Children to Sunday School

Announcements

The Reading of the Psalm

Read responsively by verse.

Psalm 126

At the end of the reading the following is said:

All: Glory be to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Lessons

Isaiah 65:17-25

1 Thessalonians 5:12-28

At the end of each lesson the following is said:

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Benedictus (The Song of Zechariah)

All: Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; he has come to his people and set them free. He has raised up for us a mighty savior, born of the house of his servant David. Through his holy prophets he promised of old that he would save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us. He promised to show mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant.

This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, to set us free from the hands of our enemies, free to worship him without fear, holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life. You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way, to give his people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us, to shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Luke 1:68-79

Gospel Lesson

Deacon: The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John 1:29-28.

All: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

At the end of the lesson the following is said:

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Message

Congregational Prayer

“Your Labor is Not in Vain”

Your labor is not in vain
Though the ground underneath you
Is cursed and stained
Your planting and reaping are never the same
Your labor is not in vain

Your labor is not unknown
Though the rocks they cry out
And the sea it may groan
The place of your toil may not seem like a home
But your labor is not unknown

Chorus: For I am with you I am with you
I am with you I am with you
For I have called you
Called you by name
Your labor is not in vain

The vineyards you plant will bear fruit
The fields will sing out and rejoice with the truth
For all that is old will at last be made new
The vineyards you plant will bear fruit

The houses you labored to build
Will finally with laughter and joy be filled
The serpent that hurts and destroys will be killed
And all that is broken be healed

“We Will Feast in The House of Zion”

Chorus: We will feast in the house of Zion
We will sing with our hearts restored
He has done great things we will say together
We will feast and weep no more

We will not be burned by the fire
He is the Lord our God
We are not consumed by the flood
Upheld protected gathered up

In the dark of night before the dawn
My soul be not afraid
For the promised morning oh how long
Oh God of Jacob be my strength

Every vow we've broken and betrayed
You are the faithful one
And from the garden to the grave
Bind us together bring shalom

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The Offertory

Officiant: 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

"O Holy Night"

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Doxology

All stand while the offerings are presented.

**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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Officiant: Yours, O Lord, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory and the majesty; for everything in heaven and on earth is yours; yours is the Kingdom, O Lord, and you are exalted as Head above all. All things come from you, O Lord

All: And of your own have we given you. 1 Chronicles 29:11. 14

Apostles Creed

All stand.

**All: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Prayers

Officiant: The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

Officiant: Let us pray.

All kneel or stand.

Officiant: Lord, have mercy.

All: Christ, have mercy.

Officiant: Lord, have mercy.

**All: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread, and forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

Officiant: O Lord, show your mercy upon us;

All: And grant us your salvation.

Officiant: O Lord, guide those who govern us;

All: And lead us in the way of justice and truth.

Officiant: Clothe your ministers with righteousness;

All: And let your people sing with joy.

Officiant: O Lord, save your people;

All: And bless your inheritance.

Officiant: Give peace in our time, O Lord;

All: And defend us by your mighty power.

Officiant: Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;

All: Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.

Officiant: Create in us clean hearts, O God;

All: And take not your Holy Spirit from us.

The Collect of the day

Officiant: 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.

A Collect for Strength to Await Christ's Return

Officiant: O God our King, by the resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ on the first day of the week, you conquered sin, put death to flight, and gave us the hope of everlasting life:

Redeem all our days by this victory; forgive our sins, banish our fears, make us bold to praise you and to do your will; and steel us to wait for the consummation of your kingdom on the last great Day; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Prayer for Mission

Officiant: Almighty and everlasting God, who alone works great marvels: Send down upon our clergy and the congregations committed to their charge the life-giving Spirit of your grace, shower them with the continual dew of your blessing, and ignite in them a zealous love of your Gospel; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

The General Thanksgiving

All: Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all whom you have made.

We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.

And we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies, that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up ourselves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.

Prayer of St. John Chrysostom

Officiant: Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time, with one accord to make our common supplications to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will grant their requests: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting.

All: Amen.

The Blessing

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
Christopher/ Joel Brown
The Blessing Lyrics © Sony/ATV Music Publishing LLC

Dismissal

Deacon: Let us bless the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

This Week at St. Luke's Church, December 18th – December 24th

Monday

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

Tuesday

Worship With the Word, 6:30-8:30 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

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

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

Friday

Saturday

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

Sunday

Sunday Morning Worship, 10:00 AM (Sanctuary)

Christmas Eve Service, 7:00-8:30 PM (Sanctuary)

Upcoming:

Dec. 25th – Christmas Day Service, 10:00 AM

Jan. 19th thru 21st – 'Journey to Wholeness' Healing Conference

**Readings for December 24: 2 Samuel 7:1-17, Psalm 132:1-19
Romans 16:25-27, Luke 1:26-38**