



**Welcome to St. Luke's Church
Sunday, December 22, 2024**

4th 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 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

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“Love Makes Us Strong”

Chorus: We will watch we will pray
We will wait for that day
Lamps are lit oil is stored
Hearts are burning Bridegroom Lord

Chorus 2: We are the Church we are the Bride
Love makes us strong to lay down our lives

Bridge: Come bind us together in love while we wait
Bind us together in love

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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: Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and as we are sorely hindered by our sins from running the race that is set before us, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and forever.

All: Amen.

Praise and Worship

“Our Father”

Our Father in heaven hallowed be Your Name
Your kingdom come quickly Your will be done the same

Chorus: On earth as it is in heaven, let heaven come to
Earth as it is in heaven (Let heaven come)

Bridge: Yours is the kingdom Yours is the power
Yours is the glory forever amen

Ending: Forever amen
Let heaven come let heaven come

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“No Longer Slaves”

You unravel me with a melody
You surround me with a song
Of deliverance from my enemies
Till all my fears are gone

Chorus: I'm no longer a slave to fear
I am a child of God
I'm no longer a slave to fear
I am a child of God

From my mother's womb You have chosen me
Love has called my name
I've been born again into Your family
Your blood flows through my veins

Bridge: You split the sea so I could walk right through it
My fears were drowned in perfect love
You rescued me so I could stand and sing
I am a child of God

Brian Johnson | Joel Case | Jonathan David Helser© 2014 Bethel Music
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“Holy Forever”

A thousand generations falling down in worship
To sing the song of ages to the Lamb
And all who've gone before us
And all who will believe
Will sing the song of ages to the Lamb

Pre-Chorus: (Jesus) Your name is the highest
Your name is the greatest
Your name stands above them all
All thrones and dominions
All powers and positions
Your name stands above them all

Chorus 1: And the angels cry Holy
All creation cries Holy
You are lifted high Holy, Holy forever

If you've been forgiven and if you've been redeemed
Sing the song forever to the Lamb
If you walk in freedom and if you bear His name
Sing the song forever to the Lamb
We'll sing the song forever and amen

Chorus 2: Hear Your people sing Holy
To the King of Kings Holy
You will always be Holy, Holy forever

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The Lessons

Micah 5:2-5a
Psalm 80:1-7
Hebrews 10:1-10

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 desire of nations, bind
In one the hearts of all mankind
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease
And be Thyself our King of Peace
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.**

Deacon: Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke 1:39-56.

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)

“Gloria”

Rose Grove © 2024

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.**

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Celebrant: All things come of you, O Lord.

All: And of Your own have we given You.

The Great Thanksgiving

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.**

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

“Thank You Jesus For The Blood”

I was a wretch I remember who I was
I was lost I was blind I was running out of time
Sin separated the breach was far too wide
But from the far side of the chasm
You had me in Your sight

So You made a way across the great divide
Left behind Heaven's throne to build it here inside
There at the cross You paid the debt I owed
Broke my chains freed my soul
For the first time I had hope

Chorus: Thank You Jesus for the blood applied
Thank You Jesus it has washed me white
Thank You Jesus You have saved my life
Brought me from the darkness into glorious light

You took my place laid inside my tomb of sin
You were buried for three days
But then You walked right out again
And now death has no sting and life has no end
For I have been transformed by the blood of the Lamb

Bridge: There is nothing stronger
Than (Oh) the wonder working power
Of the blood the blood
That calls us sons and daughters
We are ransomed by our Father
Through the blood the blood

Ending: Glory to His name
Glory to His Name
There to my heart was the blood applied
Glory to His name

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“I Will Restore”

You will restore what has been taken
And for my ashes You will give me
Beauty beyond compare
You will restore my soul with healing oil
You will pick me up from where I fall.

For You are my God, You are my Lord
You are to be adored
Out of my brokenness You took my hand,
And proclaimed, "I will restore!"

Kenneth R. Maye © 1994

“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

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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

“Even So”

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“Love Makes Us Strong”

Cassie Campbell | Jonathan Engle | Laura Hackett Park © 2015 Forerunner Worship, Laura Hackett Music, Cassie Campbell Music, Watershed Publishing Group CCLI License # 73146

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 23rd – December 29th

Monday

Tuesday

Christmas Eve Service, 7:00 PM (Sanctuary)

Wednesday

Christmas Day Service, 10:00 AM (Sanctuary)

Church Offices CLOSED – Christmas

Thursday

Church Offices CLOSED

Friday

Church Offices CLOSED

Saturday

Men's Group, 9:00-10:30 AM (Lower Kitchenette)

Sunday

Sunday Morning Worship, 10:00 AM (Sanctuary)

Upcoming:

January 3rd – 'Meeting w God' Service, 7:00 PM

January 10th & 11th – "Create" Worship Arts Retreat

January 19th – Annual Meeting, 12:30 PM

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

**Readings for December 29: Isaiah 61:10-62:2,
Psalm 147:12-20, Galatians 3:23-4:7, John 1:1-18**