



**Welcome to St. Luke's Church
Sunday, December 24, 2023**

The Fourth 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

“Adore”

You stepped down from heaven, humbly You came
God of all creation here with us
In a starlit manger Emmanuel
Light of the world here to save

Chorus: Adore, come let us adore
O come let us adore Him
The Lord, worship Christ the Lord
Let all that is within us adore

Wise men bring their treasures, shepherds bow low
Angel voices sing of peace on earth
What have I to offer to heaven's King
I will bring my life my love my all

Bridge: Angels sing praises ring to the newborn King
Peace on earth here with us
Joy awakening at Your feet we fall

Graham Kendrick | Martin Chalk© 2015 Common Hymnal Publishing, sixsteps
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Opening Sentence

Officiant: In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make
straight in the dessert a highway for our God. Isaiah 40:3

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Celebrant: Last Sunday we lit the Candle of Joy. We light it and
the candles of Hope and Peace again as we remember that Christ
will come again and bring us everlasting peace and joy. Its light is
meant to remind us of the love that God has for us. Jesus shows
us God's perfect love. He is God's love in human form.

The scripture states that “God so loved the world that He gave His
only Son, so that whoever believes in him should not perish, but
have everlasting life.”

Love is patient; love is kind and envies no one. Love is never boastful or conceited, rude or selfish. Love is not quick to take offense; it keeps no record of troubles, but rejoices in the right, the good, and the true.

There is nothing that love cannot face; there is no limit to its faith, to its hope, to its endurance. Love never ends. We light this candle today to remind us of how God's perfect love is found in Jesus.

Lighting of the Fourth Candle: The Candle of Love

**Sung: 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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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

“House Of The Lord”

We worship the God who was
We worship the God who is
We worship the God who evermore will be

He opened the prison doors
He parted the raging sea
My God He holds the victory yeah

Chorus: There's joy in the house of the Lord
There's joy in the house of the Lord today
And we won't be quiet
We shout out Your praise
There's joy in the house of the Lord
Our God is surely in this place
And we won't be quiet
We shout out Your praise

We sing to the God who heals
We sing to the God who saves
We sing to the God who always makes a way

'Cause He hung up on that cross
Then He rose up from that grave
My God's still rolling stones away

Bridge: We were the beggars now we're royalty
We were the prisoners now we're running free
We are forgiven accepted redeemed by His grace
Let the house of the Lord sing praise

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"10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)"

Chorus: Bless the Lord, Oh my soul
Oh my soul, worship His holy name
Sing like never before, Oh my soul
I'll worship Your holy name

The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning
It's time to sing Your song again
Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me
Let me be singing when the evening comes

You're rich in love and You're slow to anger
Your name is great and Your heart is kind
For all Your goodness, I will keep on singing
Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find

And on that day when my strength is failing
The end draws near and my time has come
Still my soul will sing your praise unending
Ten thousand years and then forevermore

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"Gratitude"

All my words fall short, I got nothing new
How could I express all my gratitude

I could sing these songs as I often do
But every song must end and You never do

Chorus: So I throw up my hands
And praise You again and again
'Cause all that I have is a hallelujah, hallelujah
And I know it's not much
But I've nothing else fit for a king
Except for a heart singing hallelujah, hallelujah

I've got one response, I've got just one move
With my arms stretched wide I will worship You

Bridge: Come on my soul
Oh don't you get shy on me
Lift up your song
'Cause you've got a lion inside of those lungs
Get up and praise the Lord

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Dismissal of Children to Sunday School

Announcements

The Reading of the Psalm

Read antiphonally.

Psalm 139:1-17

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

2 Samuel 7:1-17

Romans 16:25-27

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 Luke 1:26-38.

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

“O Come To The Altar”

Are you hurting and broken within
Overwhelmed by the weight of your sin
Jesus is calling
Have you come to the end of yourself
Do you thirst for a drink from the well
Jesus is calling

Chorus: O come to the altar
The Father's arms are open wide
Forgiveness was bought with
The precious blood of Jesus Christ

Leave behind your regrets and mistakes
Come today there's no reason to wait
Jesus is calling
Bring your sorrows and trade them for joy
From the ashes a new life is born
Jesus is calling

Bridge: Oh what a Savior isn't he wonderful
Sing alleluia Christ is risen
Bow down before him for he is Lord of all
Sing alleluia Christ is risen

Bear your cross as you wait for the crown
Tell the world of the treasure you've found

Chris Brown | Mack Brock | Steven Furtick | Wade Joye © 2015 Music by
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“Holy Spirit”

There is nothing worth more that will ever come close
Nothing can compare, You're our Living Hope
Your presence, Lord

I've tasted and I've seen of the sweetest of loves
Where my heart becomes free and my shame is undone
Your presence, Lord

Chorus: Holy Spirit You are welcome here
Come flood this place and fill the atmosphere
Your glory God is what our hearts long for
To be overcome by Your presence Lord

Bridge:
Let us become more aware of your Presence
Let us experience the glory of your goodness

Bryan Torwalt | Katie Torwalt © 2011 Jesus Culture CCLI License # 73146

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

"Grace Like Rain"

Amazing Grace how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost but now I'm found
Was blind but now I see so clearly

Chorus: Hallelujah, grace like rain falls down on me
Hallelujah, all my stains are washed away
They're washed away

Tw'as grace that taught my heart to fear
And grace my fears relieved
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed

When we've been there ten-thousand years
Bright shining as the sun
We've no less days to sing Your praise
Than when we'd first begun

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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.

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

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 sitting or kneeling as able.

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: 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 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

“Hosanna, Praise is Rising”

Praise is rising, eyes are turning to You
We turn to You
Hope is stirring, hearts are yearning for You
We long for You

Pre-Chorus:

Cause when we see You we find strength to face the day
In Your presence all our fears are washed away
Washed away

Chorus:

Hosanna, Hosanna, You are the God who saves us
Worthy of all our praises
Hosanna, Hosanna, Come have Your way among us
We welcome You here Lord Jesus

Hear the sound of hearts returning to You
We turn to You
In Your kingdom broken lives are made new
You make us new

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Dismissal

Deacon: Let us bless the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

This Week at St. Luke's Church, December 25th - December 31st

Monday

Christmas Day Service, 10:00-11:30 AM (Sanctuary)
Church Offices CLOSED

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)
Church Offices CLOSED

Wednesday

Church Offices CLOSED

Thursday

Morning Intercession, 9:30-11:30 AM (Sanctuary)
Stage 4 Ministry, 9:30 AM-12:30 PM (Lower Conference Room)
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:

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

**Readings for December 31: Isaiah 61:10-62:5,
Psalm 147:13-21, Galatians 3:23-4:7, John 1:1-18**