



*The
Greatest Gift
of All*

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

Christmas Eve

**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

"Joy To The World"

Joy to the World! The Lord is come
Let earth receive her King
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room
And heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and nature sing
And heav'n and heav'n and nature sing

Joy to the world! The Savior reigns
Let men their songs employ
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy

He rules the world! With truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness
And wonders of His love, and wonders of His love
And wonders, wonders of His love

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Welcome and Christmas Greeting

Celebrant: For unto us a child is born,

All: Unto us a son is given.

Praise and Worship

"O Come All Ye Faithful"

O come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold Him, born the King of angels;

Refrain: O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation,
Sing, all that hear in heaven God's holy word;
Give to the Father glory in the highest.

All hail, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning
O Jesus, for evermore be Thy name adored;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing.

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“No Longer Slaves”

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

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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 He alone are worthy, for He alone are worthy
For He 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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“Alpha And Omega”

You are Alpha and Omega
We worship You our Lord
You are worthy to be praised

Chorus: We give You all the glory
We worship You our Lord
You are worthy to be praised

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The Lessons

Isaiah 9:1-7
Psalm 96
Titus 2:11-14

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: Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, Born is the King of Israel.

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Lector: The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

Deacon: Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to
Luke 2:1-14.

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.

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.

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 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

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

All: And with your spirit.

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

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

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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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 gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the working of the Holy Spirit, was made truly man, taking on the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; and yet without the stain of sin, to make us clean from sin.

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:

**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

Celebrant or 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 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

All: We do not presume to come to this, your table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your abundant and great mercies.

Apart from your grace, we are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table; but you are the same Lord, whose character is always to have mercy.

Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body, and our souls washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. 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:

"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.

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

O come, thou rod of Jesse, free
Thine own from Satan's tyranny
From depths of hell Thy people save
And give them vict'ry o'er the grave.

O come, thou Day-spring, come and cheer,
Our spirits by Thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night
And death's dark shadow put to flight.

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"Away In A Manger"

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever, and love me, I pray,
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven, to live with Thee there.

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"What Child Is This"

Unknown | William Chatterton Dix © Words: Public Domain Music: Public
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Seated or kneeling

"Silent Night"

Silent night, holy night
All is calm, all is bright,
Round yon virgin mother and child,
Holy infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night
Shepherds quake at the sight,
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heav'nly hosts sing alleluia;
Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born!

Silent night, holy night
Son of God, love's pure light,
Radiant beams from thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

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The Blessing

The Recessional

"Go Tell It On The Mountain"

Chorus:

Go tell it on the mountain over the hills and everywhere
Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born

While shepherds kept their watching over silent flocks by night
Behold throughout the heavens there shone a holy light, they said

The shepherds feared and trembled when lo above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth

Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born
And sent us God's salvation that blessed Christmas morn

I was a lonely seeker I saw both night and day
And I asked the Lord to help me and he showed me the way

He made me a watchman up on the city wall
And if I am a Christian I am the least of all, so I'll

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The Peace

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

All: And with your spirit.

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

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