



## **Welcome to St. Luke's Church Sunday, December 24, 2020**

**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.*

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Or visit our website: [www.stlukesakron.net](http://www.stlukesakron.net)

## Processional Hymn

### "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 rod of Jesse's stem,  
from every foe deliver them that trust  
thy mighty power to save,  
and give them vict'ry o'er the grave.  
Rejoice! Rejoice!  
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

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.

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## Welcome and Call to Worship

Celebrant: For unto us a child is born.

**All: To us a son is given.**

## Lighting of the Candles

Celebrant: The One who made the human body now comes to share its mortality, to save it from the nothingness of death and glorify it as his own forever.

We light the candles of the Advent wreath, to remember those who saw Christ coming and were filled with the same joyful expectation that now fills our hearts.

*The First Candle of the Advent Wreath is Lit.*

Celebrant: Isaiah, the prophet of God, said: "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light"

**All: Glory to God in the highest and peace to his people on earth.**

*The Second Candle of the Advent Wreath is Lit*

Celebrant: David the King, the ancestor of Christ, the singer of God's praises, proclaimed: "The Lord is my light and my salvation."

**All: Glory to God in the highest and peace to his people on earth.**

*The Third Candle of the Advent Wreath is Lit*

Celebrant: John the Baptist, herald of the Light, spoke of the one who was to come and said: "He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire."

**All: Glory to God in the highest and peace to his people on earth.**

*The Fourth Candle of the Advent Wreath is Lit*

Celebrant: Mary carried within her womb the light of all the nations.

**All: Glory to God in the highest and peace to his people on earth.**

*The Candle Representing Christ is Lit*

Celebrant: Jesus Christ, the Light of the world: no darkness can quench this light; no night shall cover it.

**All: Glory to God in the highest and peace to his people on earth.**

## **Prayer for Christmas Eve**

Lector: The Lord be with you.

**All: And with your spirit.**

Celebrant: O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the revelation of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with You and the Holy Spirit He lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting.

**All: Amen.**

## **A Bidding Prayer**

Celebrant: Beloved in Christ, in this Christmastide, let it be our care and delight to hear again the message of the Angels, and in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, and the Babe lying in a manger. Let us read and mark in Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience unto the glorious Redemption brought us by this Holy Child; and let us make this place glad with our carols of praise.

**All: Amen.**

## **"The First Noel"**

The first Noel the angel did say  
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay  
In fields as they lay, keeping their sheep  
On a cold winter's night that was so deep

Refrain:

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel

They looked up and saw a star  
Shining in the east beyond them far  
And to the earth it gave great light  
And so it continued both day and night (Refrain)

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*At the end of each pair of readings the lector says:*

Lector: This is the word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

Genesis 2:4b-9, 15-25

Isaiah 40:1-11

## **"O Come All Ye Faithful (Adeste Fideles)"**

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

Chorus: 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  
O sing all ye bright hosts of heav'n above  
Glory to God all, Glory in the highest

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Isaiah 7:10-15  
Luke 1:26-38

### "It Came Upon The Midnight Clear"

It came upon the midnight clear that glorious song of old  
From angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold  
Peace on the earth good will to men  
From heaven's all gracious King  
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing

For lo! the days are hastening on by prophets seen of old  
When with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold  
When peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling  
And the whole world give back the song  
Which now the angels sing

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Luke 2:1-20  
Hebrews 1:1-12

### "Be Born In Me"

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### The Gospel

Deacon: Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to  
John 1: 1-18

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

## “Noel”

Love incarnate love divine  
Star and angels gave the sign  
Bow to babe on bended knee  
The Savior of humanity  
Unto us a Child is born  
He shall reign forevermore

Chorus: Noel, Noel, come and see what God has done  
Noel, Noel, the story of amazing love  
The light of the world given for us, Noel

Son of God and Son of man  
There before the world began  
Born to suffer born to save  
Born to raise us from the grave  
Christ the everlasting Lord  
He shall reign forevermore

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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: It has long been the Church’s understanding that when circumstances prevent one from receiving Holy Communion in person, it is possible to make an Act of Spiritual Communion, which is a source of grace. Spiritual Communion is an ardent desire to receive the Sacrament at a time or in circumstances when one cannot receive Him in sacramental Communion. Please join me and those who have joined us virtually in the prayer of Spiritual Communion.

**All: Dear Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament. I love you above all things, and I desire to possess you within my soul.**

**And since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart.  
I unite myself to you, together with all your faithful people gathered around every altar of your Church, and I embrace you with all the affections of my soul. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.**

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!**



## 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. 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.**

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.

Celebrant: The Body of Christ, the Bread of Heaven.  
The Blood of Christ, the Cup of Salvation.

## Music During Communion:

### "O Holy Night"

O holy night! the stars are brightly shining,  
It is the night of the dear Savior's birth;  
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,  
Till He appeared, and the soul felt its worth.  
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices,  
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.  
Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices!  
O night divine! O night when Christ was born,  
O night O holy night, O night divine!

Led by the light of Faith serenely beaming,  
With glowing hearts, by His cradle we stand;  
So, led by light of a star sweetly gleaming,  
Here came the wise men from the Orient land.  
The King of Kings lay thus in lowly manger,  
In all our trials born to be our friend;  
He knows our need, our weakness is no stranger;  
Behold your King! before Him lowly bend!  
Behold your King! before Him lowly bend!

Truly He taught us to love one another;  
His law is love and His gospel is peace.  
Chains shall He break, for the slave is our brother,  
And in His name all oppression shall cease.  
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,  
Let all within us praise His holy name.  
Christ is the Lord, Oh, praise His name forever,  
His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim,  
His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim.

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### "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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### **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 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.**

### **Lighting of the Candles:**

#### **"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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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**

### **"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

No more let sins and sorrows grow  
Nor thorns infest the ground  
He comes to make His blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found  
Far as, far as the curse is found

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

## **The Dismissal**

Deacon: Let us go forth in the Name of Christ.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## **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 27: Isaiah 61:10-62:5,  
Psalm 147:13-21, Galatians 3:23-4:7, John 1:1-18**