



*The  
Greatest Gift  
of All*

**Welcome to St. Luke's Church  
Monday, December 25, 2023**

**Christmas Day**

**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](http://www.stlukesakron.com)

## Processional Hymn

### “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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## Welcome and Call to Worship

Celebrant: For unto us a child is born.

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

Celebrant: Come, all of you from far and near, come to kneel in  
wonder at the birth of the Christ-child. Come, for the light of  
Christ shines in the darkness.

Rejoice that the darkness cannot overcome God’s light. Come to  
adore the Christ-child whose life is the light of all people.

As we light these candles today, we thank God for the hope he  
gives us, for the love that redeems us and shows us the way, for  
the joy he pours into our hearts, and for the peace he bestows.

We thank God for his gift of Jesus. We thank him that through Christ his light has come into the world and made it possible for us to see, and in seeing, to rejoice. His truth, his love, his very self, transforms all who receive him.

*Lighting of the First, Second, Third, Fourth and Christ Candle*

### **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 of the Day**

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

**All: And with your spirit.**

Celebrant: Almighty God, you have given your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born this day of a pure virgin: Grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the same Spirit be honor and glory, now and forever.

**All: Amen.**

### **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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### “How Great is Our God”

The splendor of a King, clothed in majesty;  
Let all the earth rejoice, all the earth rejoice.  
He wraps Himself in light, and darkness tries to hide.  
And trembles at His voice, and trembles at His voice.

Chorus: How great is our God! Sing with me  
How great is our God! And all will see  
How great, how great is our God

Age to age He stands, and time is in His hands.  
Beginning and the end. Beginning and the end  
The Godhead Three in One, Father, Spirit, Son,  
The Lion and the Lamb, the Lion and the Lamb (Chorus)

Name above all Names, worthy of all praise  
My heart will sing: How great is our God. (Chorus)

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### The Lessons

Isaiah 62:6-12

Psalms 97

Titus 3:4-7

*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 2:15-20.

**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

## "Away In A Manger"

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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 Most  
Holy, Holy, Holy Lord Most High  
All glory power and praise  
And blessing now we raise for You alone can save**

Dan Morgan ©

### **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.**

## **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 Holy Night"**

Adolphe Charles Adam | John Sullivan Dwight | Placide Cappeau © Words & Music: Public Domain CCLI License # 73146

## 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

### "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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## **The Dismissal**

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

**All: Thanks be to God**

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