



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

Phone: 330-665-2227 Email: office@stlukesakron.com

Or visit our website: www.stlukesakron.net

Processional Hymn

"Angels From The Realms Of Glory"

Angels, from the realms of glory,
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Ye, who sang creation's story,
Now proclaim Messiah's birth.

Refrain: Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the new-born King.

Shepherds in the field abiding,
Watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with man is now residing;
Yonder shines the infant Light. (Refrain)

Sages, leave your contemplations;
Brighter visions beam afar:
Seek the great Desire of nations;
Ye have seen his natal star. (Refrain)

Saints before the altar bending,
Watching long in hope and fear,
Suddenly the Lord, descending,
In his temple shall appear. (Refrain)

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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.

Announcements

Praise and Worship

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

Praise to the Lord
The Almighty the King of creation
O my soul praise Him for He is thy health and salvation
All ye who hear now to His temple draw near
Praise Him in glad adoration

Praise to the Lord
Who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth
Shelters thee under His wings yea so gently sustaineth
Hast thou not seen how thy desires e'er have been
Granted in what He ordaineth

Chorus: Hallelujah Hallelujah Hallelujah Hallelujah

Praise to the Lord
Who doth prosper thy work and defend thee
Surely His goodness and mercy here daily attend thee
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do
If with His love He befriend thee

Praise to the Lord O let all that is in me adore Him
All that hath life and breath
Come now with praises before Him
Let the Amen sound from His people again
Gladly fore'er we adore Him (Chorus)

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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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“Great Are You Lord”

You give life You are love, You bring light to the darkness
You give hope You restore every heart that is broken
And great are You Lord

Chorus: It's Your breath in our lungs
So we pour out our praise, we pour out our praise
It's Your breath in our lungs
So we pour out our praise to You only

Bridge: And all the earth will shout Your praise
Our hearts will cry these bones will sing
Great are You Lord

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The Lessons

At the end of each reading the lector says:

Lector: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Isaiah 52:7-12

Psalm 98

Hebrews 1:1-12

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
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 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 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)

“Welcome to Our World”

Tears are falling, hearts are breaking
How we need to hear from God
You've been promised, we've been waiting
Welcome holy Child, welcome holy Child

Hope that You don't mind our manger
How I wish we would have known
But long-awaited holy Stranger
Make Yourself at home
Please make Yourself at home

Bring Your peace into our violence
Bid our hungry souls be filled
Word now breaking heaven's silence
Welcome to our world, welcome to our world

Fragile finger sent to heal us
Tender brow prepared for thorn
Tiny heart whose blood will save us
Unto us is born, unto us is born

So wrap our injured flesh around You
Breathe our air and walk our sod
Rob our sin and make us holy
Perfect Son of God, perfect Son of God
Welcome to our world

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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 Little Town of Bethlehem”

O little town of Bethlehem how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by
Yet in thy dark streets shineth, the everlasting Light
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary and gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars together proclaim the holy birth!
And praises sing to God the King
And peace to men on earth.

How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of His heav'n.
No ear may hear His coming but in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him
Still the dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem! Descend to us, we pray
Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

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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

"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 O'er silent flocks by night
behold throughout the heavens there shone a holy light

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 brought us God's salvation that blessed Christmas morn

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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**