



Welcome to St. Luke's Church Sunday, December 27, 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

"Hark The Herald Angels Sing"

Hark! the herald angels sing,
Glory to the newborn King!
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim,
Christ is born in Bethlehem!

Refrain: Hark the herald angels sing,
Glory to the newborn King!

Christ, by highest heav'n adored;
Christ, the everlasting Lord;
Late in time behold Him come,
Offspring of the Virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
Hail the incarnate Deity,
Pleased as Man with man to dwell;
Jesus, our Emmanuel! (Refrain)

Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail, the Son of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings
Ris'n with healing in His wings,
Mild He lays His glory by,
Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth. (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.

Lighting of the Candles

Celebrant: As we light these candles today, we thank God for the Hope He gives us, for the Peace He bestows, for the Joy He pours into our hearts and for the Love that redeems us and shows us the way. 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 poured upon us the new light of Your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with You, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

All: Amen.

Announcements

Praise and Worship

“Who You Say I Am”

Who am I that the highest King would welcome me
I was lost but He brought me in
Oh His love for me, oh His love for me

Chorus: Who the Son sets free oh is free indeed
I'm a child of God, yes I am
In my Father's house there's a place for me
I'm a child of God, yes I am

Free at last He has ransomed me, His grace runs deep
While I was a slave to sin, Jesus died for me
Yes, He died for me

Bridge: I am chosen not forsaken
I am who You say I am
You are for me not against me
I am who You say I am (chorus)

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“Ancient Of Days”

Though the nations rage, kingdoms rise and fall
There is still one King reigning over all
So I will not fear for this truth remains
That my God is the Ancient of Days

Chorus: None above Him none before Him
All of time in His hands
For His throne it shall remain and ever stand
All the power all the glory
I will trust in His name
For my God is the Ancient of days

Though the dread of night overwhelms my soul
He is here with me I am not alone
O His love is sure and He knows my name
For my God is the Ancient of Days

Though I may not see what the future brings
I will watch and wait for the Savior king
Then my joy complete standing face to face
In the presence of the Ancient of Days

Jesse Reeves | Jonny Robinson | Michael Farren | Rich Thompson 2018
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“Here In Your Presence”

Found in Your hands, fullness of joy
Every fear suddenly wiped away
Here in Your Presence

All of my gains now fade away
Every crown no longer on display
Here in Your Presence

Heaven is trembling in awe of Your wonders
The kings and their kingdoms are standing amazed

Chorus: Here in Your Presence, we are undone
Here in Your Presence
Heaven and earth become one
Here in Your Presence, all things are new
Here in Your Presence
Everything bows before You

Bridge: Wonderful, beautiful, glorious
Matchless in every way

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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 61:10-62:5

Psalm 147:13-20

Galatians 3:23-4:7

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)

“Emmanuel, You’re One of Us”

It just doesn't feel like Christmas at all
It's so hard to forget about all that went on
Some friends lost their jobs and some family too
Some people said it was all down to you

Chorus: I know Emmanuel you're one of us
You left your throne to wear our scars
Though Christmas lights may lose their spark
And winter's cold may break our hearts
Christmas means Emmanuel you're one of us

Maybe it is Christmas time after all
The carols are soaring the fire's roaring on
This year's had its trials but sweet mercies too
Glad tidings of joy and they're all down to you

Bridge: So sister and brother be kind to each other
We've all had a journey our own path to wander
The light will come just know you're not alone

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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 Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary his mother, was made truly man, yet without the stain of sin, that we might be cleansed from sin and given the right to become your children.

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:

"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

Still thro' the cloven skies they come with peaceful wings unfurled
And still their heavenly music floats o'er all the weary world
Above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hovering wing
And ever o'er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing

Yet with the woes of sin and strife the world has suffered long
Beneath the heav'nly strain have rolled
Two thousand years of wrong
And man at war with man hears not the tidings which they bring
O hush the noise ye men of strife and hear the angels sing

O ye beneath life's crushing load whose forms are bending low
Who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow
Look now! for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing
O rest beside the weary road and 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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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

"Angels We Have Heard On High"

Angels we have heard on high,
Singing sweetly through the night,
And the mountains in reply,
Echoing their brave delight.

Refrain: Glo.....ria in excelsis Deo,
Glo.....ria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why these songs of happy cheer?
What great brightness did you see?
What glad tidings did you hear? (Refrain)

Come to Bethlehem and see,
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee,
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King. (Refrain)

See him in a manger laid,
Whom the angels praise above;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,
While we raise our hearts in love. (Refrain)

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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 January 3: Isaiah 60:1-9,
Psalm 72:1-11, Ephesians 3:1-13, Matthew 2:1-12**