



**Welcome to St. Luke's Church  
Sunday, December 29, 2024**

**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Christmas**

**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

### "Angels We Have Heard On High"

Angels we have heard on high,  
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply,  
Echoing their joyous strains.

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

Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be  
Which inspire your heavenly song?

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

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

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## Welcome and Call to Worship

Celebrant: For unto us a child is born.

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

## 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.**

## The Summary of the Law

Celebrant: Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ says: You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment.

And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets. (Matthew 22:37-40)

## The Kyrie

**Sung:            Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy  
                      Lord have mercy on us.  
                      Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy  
                      Lord have mercy on us.**

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## 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, kindled 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.**

## Praise and Worship

### **“Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”**

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee,  
God of glory, Lord of love;  
Hearts unfold like flowers before thee,  
Opening to the sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;  
Drive the dark of doubt away;  
Giver of immortal gladness,  
Fill us with the light of day.

All thy works with joy surround thee,  
Earth and heaven reflect thy rays,  
Stars and angels sing around thee,  
Center of unbroken praise;  
Field and forest, vale and mountain,  
Flowering meadow, flashing sea,  
Chanting bird and flowing fountain,  
Call us to rejoice in thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving,  
Ever blessing, ever blest,  
Wellspring of the joy of living,  
Ocean depth of happy rest!  
Thou our Father, Christ our Brother,  
All who live in love are thine;  
Teach us how to love each other,  
Lift us to the joy divine.

Mortals join the happy chorus,  
Which the morning stars began;  
Father love is reigning o'er us,  
Brother love binds man to man.  
Ever singing march we onward,  
Victors in the midst of strife;  
Joyful music leads us sunward  
In the triumph song of life.

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### **"The First Noel"**

The first Noel the angel did say,  
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
In fields where 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.

And by the light of that same star  
Three wise men came from country far  
To seek for a king was their intent  
And to follow the star wherever it went

This star drew nigh to the northwest,  
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest,  
And there it did both stop and stay,  
Right over the place where Jesus lay.

Then entered in those wise men three  
Full rev'rently upon the knee  
And offered there in His presence  
Their gold and myrrh and frankincense

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### **"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 ye bright host of heav'n above;  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest.

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning  
Jesus, to Thee be all glory giv'n;  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing.

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### **The Lessons**

Isaiah 61:10-62:5

Psalms 147:12-20

Galatians 3:23-4:7

*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.**

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.**

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

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## **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 Prayers of the People**

Deacon: O Lord, show your mercy upon us;  
**All: And grant us your salvation.**

Deacon: O Lord, guide those who govern us;  
**All: And lead us in the way of justice and truth.**

Deacon: Clothe your ministers with righteousness;  
**All: And let your people sing with joy.**

Deacon: O Lord, save your people;  
**All: And bless your inheritance.**

Deacon: 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.**

Deacon: Create in us clean hearts, O God;  
**All: And take not your Holy Spirit from us.**

Celebrant: Heavenly Father, grant these our prayers for the sake of Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**All: 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 Peace**

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

**All: And with your spirit.**

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



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

Celebrant: 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)

**“King Of Kings”**

In the darkness we were waiting  
Without hope without light  
Till from Heaven You came running  
There was mercy in Your eyes  
To fulfil the law and prophets  
To a virgin came the Word  
From a throne of endless glory  
To a cradle in the dirt

Chorus: Praise the Father, praise the Son  
Praise the Spirit three in one  
God of Glory, majesty  
Praise forever to the King of kings

To reveal the kingdom coming  
And to reconcile the lost  
To redeem the whole creation  
You did not despise the cross  
For even in Your suffering  
You saw to the other side  
Knowing this was our salvation  
Jesus for our sake You died (Chorus)

And the morning that You rose  
All of heaven held its breath  
Till that stone was moved for good  
For the Lamb had conquered death  
And the dead rose from their tombs  
And the angels stood in awe  
For the souls of all who'd come  
To the Father are restored

And the Church of Christ was born  
Then the Spirit lit the flame  
Now this Gospel truth of old  
Shall not kneel shall not faint

By His blood and in His Name  
In His freedom I am free  
For the love of Jesus Christ  
Who has resurrected me (Chorus)

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## Doxology

**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, or gluten-free 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:

### **The Sanctus**

**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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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**

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 it is 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**

**Sung: We do not presume to come to Your table  
Trusting in our own righteousness  
For we are not worthy so much as to gather  
The crumbs from under Your table**

**But trusting O Lord in Your great and manifold mercies  
For You are the same Lord  
Whose nature is always to have mercy  
So cleanse us and feed us  
With the body and blood of Your Son  
That we may live in Him that He may live in us  
For ever and ever. Amen.**

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### **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

Refrain: 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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### **“We Exalt Thee”**

For Thou, O Lord, art high above all the earth.  
Thou art exalted far above all gods.  
For Thou, O Lord, art high above all the earth.  
Thou art exalted far above all gods.

We exalt Thee, we exalt Thee,  
We exalt Thee, O Lord.  
We exalt Thee, we exalt Thee,  
We exalt Thee, O Lord.

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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**

### **"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.**

**This Week at St. Luke's Church, December 30<sup>th</sup> – January 5<sup>th</sup>**

**Monday**

*Church Offices CLOSED*

**Tuesday**

*Church Offices CLOSED – New Year's Eve*

**Wednesday**

*Church Offices CLOSED – New Year's Day*

**Thursday**

**Friday**

*Church Offices CLOSED*

'Meeting w/ God' Service, 7:00-8:30 PM (Sanctuary)

**Saturday**

Men's Group, 9:00-10:30 AM (Lower Kitchenette)

**Sunday**

Sunday Morning Worship, 10:00 AM (Sanctuary)

**Upcoming:**

January 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> – "Create" Worship Arts Retreat

January 19<sup>th</sup> – Annual Meeting, 12:30 PM

February 9<sup>th</sup> – Souper Bowl Party & Chili Cook-Off, 5:30 PM

**Readings for January 5: Jerimiah 31:7-14, Psalm 84,  
Ephesians 1:3-14, Matthew 2:1-12**