



Hope
Peace
Joy
& Love

**Welcome to St. Luke's Church
Sunday, December 7, 2025**

Second Sunday of Advent

**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

Processional Hymn

“Prepare The Way”

We've heard the revival stories
Of ancient and old time glory
Spirit of God come do it again
Miracle-working power
Moving in signs and wonders
Spirit of God come do it again

Chorus: Prepare the way He's coming through
Ready or not our God's on the move
We're gonna see heaven on earth
Come Holy Spirit awaken Your church

God You're just getting started
A testimony of more to come
Spirit of God come do it in us
We join in the faith of heaven
And prophesy Your kingdom here on earth
Spirit of God come do it in us

Bridge: Fire fall wind come blow
We're ready for more ready for more
Break down the walls push back the doors
We're ready for more (ready for more)

Ending: We've heard the revival stories
Of ancient and old time glory
Spirit of God come do it again

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Welcome and Call to Worship

Celebrant: Surely the Lord is coming soon.

All: Amen. Come Lord Jesus!

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.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Celebrant: Last Sunday we lit the first candle in our Advent Wreath, the candle of Hope. We light it again as we remember that Christ will come again to fulfill all of God's promises to us.

The Second Candle of Advent is the Candle of Peace. The Candle of Peace reminds us of the place in which preparations were made to receive and cradle the Christ child. Peace is a gift that we must be prepared for. God gives us the gift of peace when we turn to him in faith.

The prophet Isaiah calls Christ "the Prince of Peace." Through John the Baptist and all the other prophets, God asks us to prepare our hearts so that He may come in.

Our hope is in God, and in His Son Jesus Christ. Our peace is found in Him. We light this candle today to remind us that He brings peace to all who trust in Him.

Lighting of the Advent Candles: The Candle of Peace

**Sung: Israel's strength and consolation,
Hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear desire of every nation,
Joy of every longing heart.**

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Collect of the Day

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

Celebrant: Blessed Lord, who caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that by patience and the comfort of your holy Word we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

Praise and Worship

"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

Chorus: Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel

O come Thou Wisdom from on high
Who ord'rest all things far and nigh
To us the path of knowledge show
And teach us in her ways to go

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 Dayspring come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night
And death's dark shadow put to flight

O come desire of nations bind
Our peoples in one heart and mind
Bid envy, strife, and quarrels cease
And fill the world with heaven's peace

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“Behold Him”

He who was before there was light
Walked across the pages of time
He who made every living thing, behold Him
He who heard humanity's cry
Left His throne to wake as a child
He became like the least of us, behold Him

Chorus 1: Jesus Son of God Messiah
The Lamb the roaring Lion
Oh be still and behold Him

He who dined with sinners and saints
Healed the blind the lost and the lame
Even now He is in our midst, behold Him
He who chose a criminal's end
Paid with blood to settle our debt
Buried death as He rose to life, behold Him

Chorus 2: Jesus Son of God Messiah
The Lamb the roaring Lion
Oh be still and behold Him
Jesus Alpha and Omega
Our God the risen Savior
Oh be still and behold Him

Bridge: Holy holy holy is the Lord God Almighty
Worthy worthy worthy to receive all praise

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“Forever Reign”

You are good, You are good
When there's nothing good in me
You are love, You are love on display for all to see
You are light, You are light when the darkness closes in
You are hope, You are hope, You have covered all my sin

You are peace, You are peace when my fear is crippling
You are true, You are true even in my wandering
You are joy, You are joy, You're the reason that I sing
You are life, You are life, In You death has lost its sting

Chorus: Oh, I'm running to Your arms
I'm running to Your arms
The riches of Your love will always be enough
Nothing compares to Your embrace
Light of the world forever reign

You are more, You are more than my words will ever say
You are Lord, You are Lord, all creation will proclaim
You are here, You are here,
In Your presence I'm made whole
You are God, You are God,
Of all else I'm letting go (Chorus)

Bridge: My heart will sing no other Name
Jesus, Jesus

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Children Released for Sunday School / Announcements

The Lessons

Old Testament Reading – Isaiah 11:1-10

Psalms – Psalm 72:1-19 (*read responsively*)

New Testament Reading – Romans 15:1-13

The Gospel

Sung: Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Deacon: Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to
Matthew 3:1-12.

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: Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O 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 worshipped 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: Let us pray for the Church and for the world, saying, “Hear our prayer.” For the peace of the whole world, and for the well-being and unity of the people of God. Lord, in your mercy:
All: Hear our prayer.

Deacon: We pray for Steve, our Archbishop, and Julian, our Provincial Dean during the Archbishop’s leave of absence. Lord, in your mercy:
All: Hear our prayer.

Deacon: We pray for Mark, our Bishop, for Allen, our Suffragan Bishop, and for all the clergy and people of our diocese and congregation. Lord, in your mercy:
All: Hear our prayer.

Deacon: Gracious Father, Look favorably on your holy catholic church. Fill it with all truth, in all truth with all peace. Where it is corrupt, purify it; where it is in error, direct it; where in anything it is amiss, reform it. Where it is right, strengthen it; where it is in want, provide for it; where it is divided, reunite it; for the sake of Jesus Christ your Son our Savior. Lord, in your mercy:
All: Hear our prayer.

Deacon: We pray for the diocesan Search Committee for our next bishop. Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on your Church, and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a Bishop for this Diocese that we may receive a faithful pastor who will preach the Gospel, care for your people, equip us for ministry, and lead us forth in fulfillment of the Great Commission; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Lord, in your mercy:
All: Hear our prayer.

Deacon: For all those who proclaim the Gospel at home and abroad; and for all who teach and disciple others. Lord, in your mercy:
All: Hear our prayer.

Deacon: For our brothers and sisters in Christ who are persecuted for their faith. Lord, in your mercy:
All: Hear our prayer.

Deacon: For our nation, for those in authority, and for all in public service, especially our Donald, our President, Mike, our Governor, and our senators and representatives. Lord, in your mercy:

All: Hear our prayer.

Deacon: For all those who are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity. Lord, in your mercy:

All: Hear our prayer.

Deacon: For all those who have departed this life in the certain hope of the resurrection, in thanksgiving let us pray. Lord, in your mercy:

All: Hear our prayer.

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 for ever.

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. "Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God." (Hebrews 13:16)

"Lion"

God of Jacob Great I Am
King of Angels Son of Man
Voice of many waters Song of heaven's throne
Louder than the thunder Make Your glory known

Chorus 1: Hail hail Lion of Judah let the Lion roar
Hail hail Lion of Judah let the Lion roar

Pride of Zion Prophet's spoke
Our Messiah Flesh and bone
You alone are worthy to open up the scroll
Like a lamb You suffered but the Lion has arose

Bridge 1: Prepare the way
Prepare the way of the Lord

Bridge 2: O valley be raised up
O mountain be made low

Chorus 2: Hail hail Lion of Judah
Let the Lion roar
Hail hail Lion of Judah
Let the Lion roar

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Doxology *[All rise]*

**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, 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 sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great glory to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

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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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

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 and that He may live in us
Forever 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:

"I Hear a Sound"

I hear a sound coming from the mountain,
I hear it louder each day.
I hear a sound coming from the mountain
And it says, "Prepare ye the way."

Chorus: Prepare ye the way
Prepare ye the way
Prepare ye the way of the Lord

I see the King standing on the mountain,
I see Him clearer each day.
I see the King standing on the mountain,
And He says, "Prepare ye the way."

I feel God's love streaming from the mountain,
I feel it stronger each day.
I feel God's love streaming from the mountain,
And it says, "Prepare ye the way."

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"Even So"

All of creation, all of the earth
Make straight a highway, a path for the Lord
Jesus is coming soon

Call back the sinner, wake up the saint
Let every nation shout of Your fame
Jesus is coming soon

Chorus: Like a bride waiting for her groom
We'll be a church ready for You
Every heart longing for our King
We sing, even so come Lord Jesus, come
Even so come Lord Jesus, come

There will be justice, all will be new
Your name forever, faithful and true
Jesus is coming soon

Bridge: So we wait, we wait for You
 God, we wait, Your coming soon

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“Come Lord Jesus”

When the war is over and the battles are done
We shall see our Savior shining like the sun

Every tear He will dry every shadow will flee
All those in Christ Jesus will be made complete
Will be made complete

Chorus: Come Lord Jesus
 Listen to creation groan
 Come Lord Jesus
 Come and take Your people home

Every tongue will praise Him every knee will bow
When we see our Savior riding on the clouds
Riding on the clouds

Bridge: Now we see in part then we'll see in full
 Your glory Jesus will satisfy our souls

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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 our hopes

All: We set on the risen Christ

The Blessing

The Recessional

"Lion"

Chorus 1: Hail hail Lion of Judah let the Lion roar
Hail hail Lion of Judah let the Lion roar

Bridge 1: Prepare the way
Prepare the way of the Lord

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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 8th – December 14th

Monday

Boy Scout Troop 411, 6:30-9:00 PM (The Harbor)

Tuesday

Worship With the Word, 6:30-8:30 PM (Sanctuary)

Stage 4 Ministry, 6:30-8:30 PM (Conference Room)

Women's Group, 7:00-8:30 PM (Common Room)

Wednesday

Thursday

Stage 4 Ministry, 9:30-11:30 AM (Common Room)

Friday

Church Offices CLOSED

Saturday

Men's Group, 9:30-11:00 AM (Lower Kitchenette)

TRY's Angel Tree Christmas Party, 10:00 AM-1:30 PM (House of the Lord Church, Diagonal Rd, Akron)

Sunday

Sunday Morning Worship, 10:00 AM (Sanctuary)

Youth Group, 6:30-8:30 PM (The Harbor)

Upcoming

Dec. 24th – Christmas Eve Service, 7:00 PM

Dec. 25th – Christmas Day Service, 10:00 AM

**Readings for December 14: Isaiah 35:1-10 ○ Psalm 146
James 5:7-20 ○ Matthew 11:2-19**