



Welcome to St. Luke's Church Sunday, January 7, 2024

Epiphany

**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

“To God Be The Glory”

To God be the glory, great things He hath done!
So loved He the world that He gave us His Son,
Who yielded His life an atonement for sin,
And opened the life-gate that all may go in.

Chorus: Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the earth hear His voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father thru Jesus the Son,
And give Him the glory
Great things He hath done!

O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,
To every believer the promise of God;
The vilest offender who truly believes,
That moment from Jesus a pardon receives.

Great things He hath taught us, great things He hath done,
And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
But purer, and higher, and greater will be
Our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see.

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Welcome and Call to Worship

Celebrant: I will make you as a light for the nations,

All: That my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.

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: Kyrie eleison, Lord have mercy
Kyrie eleison, Lord have mercy
Wash away my sin and pardon my transgressions
Make me clean again. Have mercy on me
Christe eleison, Christ have mercy
Christe eleison, Christ have mercy**

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Collect of the Day

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

Celebrant: O God, by the leading of a star you manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: Lead us, who know you now by faith, to your presence, where we may see your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

All: Amen.

Praise and Worship

“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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“Rising Sun”

Praise Him all you sinners, sing O sing you weary
O praise Him all you children of God

We lift high His glory, shown throughout our stories
We praise Him as the children of God

Chorus: Our great Redeemer glorious Savior
Your Name is higher than the rising sun
Light of the morning You shine forever
Your Name is higher than the rising sun
Your Name is higher than the rising sun

Praise His Name forever, speak it loud and clear now
Oh praise Him all you children of God

Bridge: Hallelujah name above all
Simply to speak Your Name is praise
Hallelujah now and always
Forever we lift Your Name in praise
Hallelujah our God You reign
Simply to speak Your Name is praise oh

Ending: Hallelujah name above all
Hallelujah name above all
Hallelujah, Hallelujah

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“Alpha And Omega”

You are Alpha and Omega
We worship You our Lord
You are worthy to be praised

Chorus: We give You all the glory
We worship You our Lord
You are worthy to be praised

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The Lessons

Isaiah 60:1-9

Psalm 72

Ephesians 3:1-13

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 Matthew 2:1-12.

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.

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

"It's My Joy To Love"

Your burden it is easy and Your yoke it is light
You are meek and lowly You are gentle You are kind
Every one of Your commands
They lead my heart to life
When I obey I find life

Chorus:

It's my joy to love it's my joy to obey
You can have all my heart You can have all my praise
I will give You my life I will run hard this race
Reaching for the prize I am Yours and You are mine

Teach me all Your ways O God
Please show me Your path
Come unite my heart to fear Your name
Let there be no sin in me
That would keep me from this prize
It's because I love I will obey

Bridge:

I will run in the path of Your commands
You will surely enlarge my heart
I will make Your law daily my delight
Let me not wander from Your ways
Let it be my delight to obey
There is no greater joy than knowing Your name

Ending: I'm beginning to see these boundary lines
Were meant for me so I could find
All of these treasures hidden inside
A holy God

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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.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who took on our mortal flesh to reveal his glory; that he might bring us out of darkness and into his own glorious light.

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.

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:

“Mercy”

I will kneel in the dust at the foot of the cross
Where mercy paid for me
Where the wrath I deserve it is gone it has passed
Your blood has hidden me

Chorus: Mercy mercy as endless as the sea
I'll sing Your hallelujah for all eternity

We will lift up the cup and the bread we will break
Remembering Your love
We were fallen from grace but You took all our shame
And nailed it to a cross

Bridge: May I never lose the wonder
O the wonder of Your mercy
May I sing Your hallelujah hallelujah
Amen

Ending: I will kneel in the dust at the foot of the cross
Where mercy paid for me

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“Jesus Paid It All”

I hear the Savior say thy strength indeed is small
Child of weakness watch and pray find in Me thine all in all

Chorus: Jesus paid it all, all to Him I owe
Sin had left a crimson stain
He washed it white as snow

Lord now indeed I find Thy power and Thine alone
Can change the leper's spots and melt the heart of stone.

And when before the throne I stand in Him complete
Jesus died my soul to save my lips shall still repeat

Tag: O praise the one who paid my debt
And raise this life up from the dead.

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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

"The Blessing"

The Lord bless you and keep you
Make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you
The Lord turn His face toward you and give you peace

Amen, amen, amen
Amen, amen, amen

May His favor be upon you and a thousand generations
Your family and your children
And their children, and their children

May His presence go before you
And behind you, and beside you
All around you, and within you
He is with you, He is with you

In the morning, in the evening
In your coming, and your going
In your weeping, and rejoicing
He is for you, He is for you

He is for you, He is for you
He is for you, He is for you
He is for you, He is for you

Kari Jobe Songwriters: Cody Carnes / Kari Brooke Jobe / Steven Furtick
Christopher/ Joel Brown
The Blessing Lyrics © Sony/ATV Music Publishing LLC

The Dismissal

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

All: Thanks be to God

This Week at St. Luke's Church, January 8th – January 14th

Monday

Creative Journaling Class, 6:00-9:00 PM (Tompkin's Glory Barn)
Boy Scout Troop 411, 6:30-8:30 PM (The Harbor)

Tuesday

Worship With the Word, 6:30-8:30 PM (Sanctuary)
Stage 4 Ministry, 6:30-8:30 PM (Lower Conference Room)
Women's Group, 7:00-8:30 PM (Common Room)

Wednesday

MOPS/MomsNEXT, 9:30-11:00 AM (Café)

Thursday

Stage 4 Ministry, 9:30 AM-12:30 PM (Lower Conference Room)

Friday

Saturday

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

Sunday

Sunday Morning Worship, 10:00 AM (Sanctuary)
Bethel Akron Worship, 5:00-7:00 PM (Sanctuary & Upper Level)
Youth Group, 6:30-8:30 PM (The Harbor)

Upcoming:

Jan. 19th thru 21st – 'Journey to Wholeness' Healing Seminar

**Readings for January 14: Isaiah 42:1-9, Psalm 89:20-29,
Acts 10:34-38, Mark 1:7-11**