



## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Time For Love

December 24, 2023

9:00 AM

## ST. LUKE'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

6705 Northway +++ Greendale, WI +++ 53129

**Office Number:** 414.421.1670

**E-mail:** [stlukes@slchurch.org](mailto:stlukes@slchurch.org)    **Website:** [www.slchurch.org](http://www.slchurch.org)

Rev. Monte Peterson, Pastor  
Heather May, Youth & Family Minister  
Carol Peterson, Music Director  
Becky Cunningham, Office Manager

*Members of St. Luke's Lutheran Church, in response to Christ's love,  
Reach out in service to each other, the community, and the world.*



*Welcome to Worship! All words will be displayed on the screen.  
Kids, don't forget your Praise Packs! Children's Bulletins are available in the Praise Packs!*

## **WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

P: We gather today.

**C: It is time to worship!**

P: We listen for God

**C: It is time to hear!**

P: We receive God's grace.

**C: It is time to be loved!**

P: We leave in peace.

**C: It is time to serve others!**

P: As we wait for Jesus' arrival, Emmanuel, God-with-us, is already here in this time and place.

### **PRELUDE**

*"Gesù Bambino"*

*Pietro Yon*

*Piano/Organ duet*

### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P: *With God, there is always time for forgiveness. We trust God as we confess our sins together (Brief pause)*

P: *Holy One,*

**C: We have not stayed awake. We have missed you when you appeared in our neighbors, in strangers half a world away, in the suffering planet. We have wasted the time and the skills that you gave us and assumed we were powerless to mend the breaches in our world. Sometimes, we even gave up on your mercy, justice, and love. God is it too late for us? Speak tenderly to our anxious hearts. Tear open the heavens and heal what we have done.**

P: *People of God, God's judgment is certain and God's forgiveness is lightning fast. Hear this good news: in the name of Jesus Christ, all your sins are forgiven. Forgiveness gives us the courage we need. Wherever we wait for God's time to come, we will witness wonders.*

**C: Amen.**

### **OPENING HYMN**

*"Awake, Awake, and Greet the New Morn"*

*#242 All Verses*

## ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

Luke 1:46-55

<sup>46</sup>And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, <sup>47</sup>and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, <sup>48</sup>for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; <sup>49</sup>for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. <sup>50</sup>His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. <sup>51</sup>He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. <sup>52</sup>He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; <sup>53</sup>he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. <sup>54</sup>He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, <sup>55</sup>according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

### Candle Liturgy

#### Lighting of the Fourth Candle

#### Hymn

*"He Came Down"*

*He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love; hallelujah for ever more.*

### CHILDREN'S SERMON

Pastor Monte

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*"Gloria In Excelsis Deo"*

### HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 1:26-45

*P: This is the Gospel of our Lord*

**C: Praise to you, O Christ**

### SERMON

Pastor Monte

### SERMON HYMN

*"The Magnificat"*

*Marty Haugen*

### PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

*P: God of mercy,*

**C: hear our prayer**

### PEACE

*P: The peace of the Lord be with you always*    **C: And also with you.**

*Please greet one another with the words, "Peace be with you."*

### OFFERING

*Pew Pads are located at the far end of each pew.*

*Please fill them out and pass them, noting those seated around you.*

### OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*"O Come to the Manger"*

*Patrick Liebergan*

Voices of St. Luke's

*Children are invited to gather at the back during the anthem and help bring forward the offering.*

## **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

*P: The Lord be with you.*

**C: And also with you.**

*P: Open your hearts.*

**C: We open them to God and to one another.**

*P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*

**C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

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, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

### **DISTRIBUTION - Continuous**

If you wish to have the Pastor bring communion to your pew, please notify an Usher.  
All are Welcome!

<b>DISTRIBUTION HYMNS</b>	<i>"Come, Now, O Prince of Peace"</i>	<i>#247, all verses</i>
	<i>"Jesus, What a Wonderful Child"</i>	<i>#297</i>

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

*P: The body and blood of Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.*

**C: Amen.**

### **BENEDICTION**

<b>CLOSING HYMN</b>	<i>"Joy to the World"</i>	<i>#267, verses 1, 2 &amp; 4</i>
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### **DISMISSAL**

*P: Go in peace. Keep awake.*

**C: Thanks be to God.**

<b>POSTLUDE</b>	<i>"Hark, the Herald Angels Sing"</i> Piano/Organ duet	<i>Felix Mendelsson, arr. Fred Bock</i>
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**+ THANK YOU TO ALL WHO ASSISTED DURING WORSHIP TODAY! +**

**CHANCEL FLOWERS** are given by **the Erdmann/Devinger family**  
In loving memory of Roger Erdmann, whose birthday was December 24<sup>th</sup>.  
Merry Christmas to all.

**ETERNAL FLAME** for the month of December is given by **Pat Erdmann**  
To wish everyone a joyous Christmas.

You can now **GIVE ONLINE**, by scanning the QR code:



*Thank you for all the ways you contribute to the life and ministry of the church!*

### OPPORTUNITIES THIS WEEK

<b>Monday, December 25</b>	<b>Church Office Closed</b> 10:00 am Christmas Worship
<b>Tuesday, December 26</b>	<b>Church Office Closed</b>
<b>Wednesday, December 27</b>	<b>No Wednesday Worship</b>
<b>Friday, December 29</b>	<b>Church Office Closed</b>
<b>Sunday, December 31</b>	9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Fellowship

### Christmas Schedule

Sunday, December 24 <sup>th</sup>	4:00 pm	Interactive Family Worship
Sunday, December 24 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 pm	Traditional Christmas Eve
Monday, December 25 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am	Christmas Day



### NURSERY

The Nursey will not be staffed today, Christmas Day, or December 31<sup>st</sup>. Staff will return January 7<sup>th</sup>.

*We love children at St. Luke's, and welcome babies and young children and all their exuberance into worship! To make it easier for parents, we have "busy bags" available by the entrance, as well as "praise packs" that help encourage children's engagement in worship. We also have a cry room available in the back of the sanctuary with changing facilities and rocking chairs. We know it takes a lot of work to get to church and worship with young ones; we're glad you're here!*

Let the little children come to me ...  
it is to such as these that the  
kingdom of God belongs.

Mark 10:14, NRSV



The **POINSETTIA PLANTS** providing additional beauty to the chancel are given to the glory of God by:

- + *Jim Carlsen, in loving memory of his son, James J. Carlsen, who would have been 43 on December 7<sup>th</sup>.*
- + *Dave and Vicki Jensen, in loving memory of Anna Solkup and Anna Adamek.*
- + *Ken and Janet Orlikowski, in loving memory of Ed and Shirley Orlikowski.*
- + *Mark and Carol Peterson, in thanksgiving for our children and grandchildren.*
- + *Beth Koehler, in thanksgiving for her mother and father, Dick and Carole Koehler.*
- + *Travis, Robin, Brinlee and Raelynn Gross, in loving memory of their grandparents, Carl Ginter, Lillian Pfeffer, Laverne and Gilbert Wendorf, Joan and Al Gross, and Edith Betlinski.*
- + *Nan Hoene, in loving memory of Jeanne and Robert Jones, William Hoene, and Nina Jones.*
- + *Rudy and Jan Miller, in thanksgiving for the many blessings our family has received from God.*
- + *Rob and Karen Kegel, in loving memory of Don and Carol Palecek, and John and Ruth Kegel.*
- + *Betty Gelhar, in loving memory of her husband, Jay.*
- + *Karen Olson, in thanksgiving for a life filled with happiness.*
- + *Andrew & Andrea Clark, in thanksgiving for family and friends.*
- + *Mike and Sally Miller, in honor of kids, Luke and Jenna, and Mike's parents Dennis and Suzanne Miller.*
- + *Mary Van Ryzin in loving memory of passed family members.*

- + *Carol Van Ryzin, in loving memory of Doug Van Ryzin, Virginia Fehlhaber, and Allan Marcus.*
- + *Thomas and Marilyn Neuens, in thanksgiving for St. Luke Church.*
- + *Lori Wagner, in loving memory of Jazel and John Wagner.*
- + *Dick and Beth Krause, in loving memory of Becky Krause.*
- + *Nathan Keller, in thanksgiving for the joy of Christ in our lives, and the love of our families.*
- + *Todd, Diane, and Carly Beutin, in loving memory of Richard and Sally Hernday and Clayton Beutin.*
- + *Dan and Sandy Hutchinson in loving memory of Doraine Schindler.*
- + *Mark and Julie Ohlert in loving memory of Jack and Priscilla Krogh, and Cletus and Marjorie Ohlert.*
- + *Dennis and Suzanne Miller, in thanksgiving for friends and family.*
- + *Paula Schwartz, in thanksgiving for 25 years of marriage, and life long memories.*