



**January 7, 2024  
9:00 AM**

**ST. LUKE'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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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



### PRELUDE

*"Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light"*

*"Lo, How a Rose"*

*Instrumental Ensemble*

J.S. Bach

M. Praetorius

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

**P:** Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, the Word made flesh, our life and our salvation.

**C:** **Amen.**

**P:** Trusting the goodness and lovingkindness of God our Savior, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**P:** *God of life ,*

**C:** **you promise good news of great joy for all people, and call us to be messengers of your peace. We confess that too often we hoard our joy, our resources, and our security. We nurture conflict and build barriers. We neglect the needs of our neighbors and ignore the groaning of creation. Have mercy on us. Where we are self-centered, open our hearts. Where we are reluctant, give us courage. Where we are cynical, restore our trust. Renew us with your grace and give us again the hope of eternal life in you. Amen**

**P:** *Hear the good news: We are children of God and heirs of God's promises through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. In Jesus we are forgiven and redeemed. Sing with joy, for all the ends of the earth shall know the salvation of God.*

**C:** **Amen**



### OPENING HYMN

*"The First Noel"*

*#300, verses 1,3,4 & 5*



### READING

Isaiah 60:1-6

<sup>1</sup>Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.<sup>2</sup>For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you.<sup>3</sup>Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. <sup>4</sup>Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall

come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.  
<sup>5</sup>Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. <sup>6</sup>A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

*R: The Word of the Lord*

**C: Thanks be to God**

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

Pastor Monte



## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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## HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 2:1-12

<sup>1</sup>In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup>asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." <sup>3</sup>When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup>and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup>They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: <sup>6</sup>'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" <sup>7</sup>Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." <sup>9</sup>When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup>When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup>On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. <sup>12</sup>And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

*P: This is the Gospel of our Lord*

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



## SERMON

Pastor Monte



## SERMON HYMN

"O God Our Help"

#632, verses 1,4,5 & 6

## † NICENE CREED

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,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.  
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,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who 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 CHURCH

*P: Give us light for the journey, O God. C: Our times are in Your hands.*

## 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**

*“Lord, Make Us Worthy”  
Voices of St. Luke’s*

Natalie Sleeth

*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!*

 **COMMUNION HYMN**

*“We Three Kings”  
“As Lately We Watched”  
Instrumental Ensemble*

J.H. Hokins  
Austrian Carol

**† PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

*P: God our redeemer,*

**C: you have fed us at this table with gifts of grace, truth, and life.  
As you have gathered us in joy, send us forth as messengers of your  
peace. Make us shine with the good news of your glory, born to us in  
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
Amen.**

 **BENEDICTION**

 **CLOSING HYMN**

*“As With Gladness, Men of Old”*

#302, verses 1,3 &5



## DISMISSAL

*P: Christ the Savior is born! Go in peace. Live this good news!*

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

*“God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen”*  
Instrumental Ensemble

English Carol

**+ THANK YOU TO ALL WHO ASSISTED DURING WORSHIP TODAY! +**

**CHANCEL FLOWERS** are given by Rev. Marcia Strahl in memory of her grandfathers', Roy Bruce and Henry Daubach, birthdays.

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, January 8</b>	9:00 am Quilters
<b>Wednesday, January 10</b>	1:00 pm Worship 6:00 pm Confirmation (S) 7:00 pm Choir 7:15 pm Synergy 8:15 pm Bible on Tap
<b>Friday, January 12</b>	<b>Church Office Closed</b>
<b>Sunday, January 14</b>	9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Fellowship 10:15 am Education Hour

*Church*  
**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Sunday School & Adult Education (Anxiety Class) Returns today**

## **THANK YOU!**

- A big Thank You to everyone who participated in the many Christmas services these last few weeks. Musicians, readers, ushers, communion servers, communion preparers, decorators – it takes a lot of people to welcome our many guests into this space and to provide meaningful worship together. Thank you to all who helped serve and lead and celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus!
- Thank you to all who helped make Christmas special for area children through the gifts on the Giving Tree! Your generosity is a blessing. And thank you to Marlene Beutin and Ed Mittag for organizing this opportunity.

## **ANNUAL MEETING**

Please plan to stay for the annual meeting directly after worship on January 21, and then enjoy a chili cook-off afterwards. The cook-off is a fundraiser for the National Youth Gathering. Get your favorite recipes ready! Sign up at the Welcome Center or online at [www.slchurch.org/sign-ups](http://www.slchurch.org/sign-ups).

## **WINTER CARNIVAL**

Popcorn! Games! Prizes! Our annual Winter Carnival will take place January 27 from 11AM - 1PM. Games are geared toward Preschool - 5<sup>th</sup> grade, but all are welcome including friends and extended family too! Sign up at the Welcome Center or online at [www.slchurch.org/sign-ups](http://www.slchurch.org/sign-ups).

## **Bible Breakfast February, 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Please remember to pick up your Bibles, if you have not already done so. They are located at the Sunday School Welcome Center.

*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 as well as a staffed nursery for children ages 0-3. 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



### **\*\*PRAISE PACK ICONS\*\***



Light your candle when the candles are lit at the front of the church & hold it up high. At the end of the service turn your candle off.



Take out the cross & hold it tight during times of prayer.



Use the ribbon stick to move to the music



Look at the booklet on the clipboard to follow along with today's reading(s), or follow along on the screen



While listening to the sermon, color the picture(s) & do the activity sheets on your clipboards. Can you make any connections between your sheets & the sermon?



Put "I Give myself to God" Paper in the offering plate as your offering.



Greet those around you with a handshake, wave, fist bump, or say hello