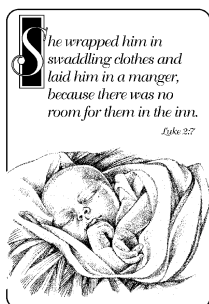


*St. Luke's Evangelical Lutheran Church
310 West Main Street
Saxonburg, PA
www.stlks.com*

8:00
December 24, 2015
The Nativity of Our Lord



PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

Christmas Praise Band:

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing!
O Come, O Come Emmanuel
Away in a Manger
God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen
It Came Upon a Midnight Clear*

PRELUDE *Good Christian Men, Rejoice arr. Wilbur Held*

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

*Children gather in the South Narthex for the
procession to the Nativity scene.*

CAROL *Away in a Manger*

*Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus, laid down his sweet head;
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.*

*The cattle are lowing; the poor baby wakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.*

*Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care
And fit us for heaven, to live with you there.*

PRAYER

P: We pray,

C: O Lord our God, with Mary and Joseph, angels and shepherds, and the animals in the stable, we gather around your Son, born for us. As we celebrate Christ's birth into the world, may we receive the Christ child into our hearts with gratitude and song. Amen.

GATHERING SONG: Joy to the World (ELW 267)

*Joy to the world! The Lord is come;
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and heaven 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.*

*No more let sin and sorrow grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as, the curse is found.*

GREETING

P: The grace of the child born for us and the joy of the Son given to us be with you all.

C: And also with you.

P: Christ is born in Bethlehem!

C: Glory to the new born King!

HYMN OF PRAISE *Hark! the Herald Angels Sing!* (ELW 270)

*Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King!”
Peace on earth and mercy mild;
God and sinners reconciled.
Joyful all you nations rise;
Join the triumph of the skies;
With angelic hosts proclaim,
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King!”*

*Hail, the heav’n born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Son of righteousness!
Light and Life to all he brings,
Ris’n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
Born that we no more may die;
Born to raise each child of earth,
Born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King!”*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 9:2–7

A reading from chapter nine of the book of Isaiah.

²The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness —
on them light has shined.

³You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.

⁴For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it

with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

SOLO:

O Come, O Come Emmanuel/ Angels We Have Heard On High
Flute Duet: Madison Crytzer and Grace Smith

SECOND READING: Titus 2:11–14

A reading from chapter two of Titus.

¹¹For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all,
¹²training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the
present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly,
¹³while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the
glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴He it is who
gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and
purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good
deeds.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Children come forward for a story reading of the Gospel.

GOSPEL RESPONSE

O Come, All Ye Faithful (ELW 283) vs. 1

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.
O come, let us adore him, O come let us adore him,
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

GOSPEL: Luke 2:1–14 [15–20]

GOSPEL RESPONSE

O Come, All Ye Faithful (ELW 283) vs. 3-4

*Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God in the highest:*

Refrain

*O come, let us adore him, O come let us adore him,
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*

*Yea, Lord, we greet thee; born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n!
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:
(refrain)*

SERMON

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

L: Lord, in your mercy.

C: Hear our prayer.

EXCHANGING THE PEACE OF OUR LORD

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Go Tell It On The Mountain*

OFFERING PRAYER

P: Let us pray.

C: We celebrate this night, O Father, the greatest gift the world has known – the gift of your own Son. Wrapped in flesh, your gift represents life, light and love. He is a gift beyond measure, a treasure beyond value. What can we offer you, O God, except ourselves? Accept these gifts we bring as tokens of our love and of our lives. Amen.

PREFACE

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

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

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

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh
you have opened the eyes of faith
to a new and radiant vision of your glory,
that, beholding the God made visible,
we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
heav-en. and earth are full of your glo-ry.. Ho - san - na in the
high - est.. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name. of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est.. Ho - san - na in the high - est..

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The first staff ends with a whole note, the second with a half note, the third with a half note, and the fourth with a whole note. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

L: The bread of God comes down from heaven and gives life to the world. Come, eat, and live.

C: Amen

COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

As Lutheran Christians, we believe Christ is truly present within our gathering and the taking of bread and wine is for forgiveness, life and salvation. On behalf of Christ, we invite all who are baptized and believe in Jesus Christ to join us in His Holy Supper. Children who have not made their first communion may be brought forward to the Altar for a blessing.

By intinction, the taking of the host of bread and dipping into the cup of wine, we celebrate Holy Communion this night with high praise and thankful hearts for God's gift of life, salvation given to us in his blessed Son, Jesus Christ. If you are allergic to bread or wine, you may fully participate by taking either one or the other. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.

COMMUNION SONGS

<i>O Little Town of Bethlehem</i>	ELW 279
<i>The First Noel</i>	ELW 300
<i>Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming</i>	ELW 272
<i>Love Has Come</i>	ELW 292

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Let us pray.

Gracious God,

in this meal you have drawn us to your heart,
and nourished us at your table with food and drink,
the body and blood of Christ.

Now send us forth to be your people in the world,
and to proclaim your truth this day and evermore,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

GOSPEL PROCESSION

The Holy Gospel is read in the midst of the people on this holy night with everyone facing the Cross. This ancient custom in the Church symbolizes Christ's coming to earth at the first Christmas through the miracle of His Incarnation and His coming to us now through Word and Sacrament.

FLUTE SOLO *Of Our Father's Love Begotten*

THE READING: John 1:1–5, 10–14

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning. ³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴ In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. ¹¹ He came to

that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹² Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— ¹³ children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. ¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

SAXOPHONE SOLO *Of Our Father's Love Begotten*

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

Parents of young children, please share their candles. As the flame is passed, please keep the lighted candle in the upright position and the unlit candle tipped into the flame until lit.

CAROLS ***What Child Is This?***

*What child is this, who, laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
While shepherds' watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring him laud, The babe, the son of Mary!*

*So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh,
Come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
Let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, Raise the song on high,
The virgin sings her lullaby;
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mary!*

Silent Night

*Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.*

*(Repeat verse 1 in German)
Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht,
Alles schläft, einsam wacht,
Nur das traute hochheilige Paar,
Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh,
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh.*

*Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light.
Radiant beams from your holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth, Jesus, Lord, at your birth.*

BLESSING

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.
In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.
C: Amen.

SENDING SONG: *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.
Gloria, in excelsis Deo,
Gloria, in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heav'nly song.
Gloria, in excelsis Deo,
Gloria, in excelsis Deo.

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

DISMISSAL

P: Let us leave this holy gathering still praising our Lord and Savior.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE *Joy to the World – arr. Buryl Red*

Christmas Praise Band:

<i>Maddie Crytzer</i>	<i>flute</i>
<i>Gracie Smith</i>	<i>flute</i>
<i>Micah Keller</i>	<i>alto saxophone</i>
<i>Brenden Smith</i>	<i>tenor saxophone</i>
<i>Austin Heade</i>	<i>trumpet</i>
<i>Eli Keller</i>	<i>trumpet</i>
<i>Mihkayla Perkins</i>	<i>baritone</i>
<i>Evan Weston</i>	<i>trombone</i>
<i>Guitar: Marilyn Merbach</i>	
<i>Piano: Ellen Dodge</i>	

WELCOME!

May the full meaning of Christmas be real to us all ... now and always. The presence of all who have come to celebrate Christmas adds to the joy of worshiping the Lord on this glorious night. Welcome, friends!

THIS EVENING'S WORSHIP MINISTRY TEAM INCLUDES:

ACOLYTES	Payne Crouch, Addis Crouch, Alex Edder
ALTAR GUILD	Gretchen Gallagher
CHILD. SERMON	Pastor Keller
GREETERS	Lynn and Jason Fox
LECTOR/ASST. MIN.	Dave Fugate
USHERS	Kelly and John Weston
OFFER. COUNTERS	Donna Shipe and David Fugate

CHURCH STAFF

Reverend Roger G. Keller	Pastor	724-352-2333
Pastor Keller's Cell		724-713-0549
Pastor Keller's Home		724-360-2786
Jeannine Sanford, AiM	Assoc. Min. of Pastoral Care & Visitation	724-594-5533
Cristie Crytzer	Director of Discipleship	724-360-3190
Chris Savannah	Choir Director Office Manager	724-282-8044 724-352-2333
Cortney Christoforetti	Organist	724-352-2333
Marge Kollinger	Parish Coordinator	724-352-2333
Linda Heade	Sexton	724-352-3413
Bonnie Ekas	Prayer Chain	724-352-1391

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Peace on Earth Comes from the Light of Heaven, Jesus Christ!



Christmas
Eve

**The staff of St. Luke's extends
the best Christmas wishes to you!
May this blessed season be filled with
peace, joy and the renewal of all our lives!**