

December 24, 2020
The Nativity of Our Lord

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

PRESERVICE AND LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

(Additional recorded preservice music can be found on stlks.com)

Bring a Torch, Jeannette, Isabella – Trad. French
Madison Crytzer, flute

PROCLAMATION

Many ages after God created the heavens and the earth,
When man and woman were formed in God's own image;
Long after the great flood,
When God set the rainbow in the clouds as a sign of the covenant;
Twenty-one centuries from the time of Abraham and Sarah;
Thirteen centuries after Moses led God's people to freedom:
Eleven centuries from the time of Ruth and the judges;
A thousand years from the anointing of David as king;

In the sixty-fifth week as Daniel's prophecy takes note;
In the one hundred and ninety-fourth Olympiad;
The seven hundred and fifty-second year from the founding of
the city of Rome;
The forty-second year of the reign of Octavian Augustus;
In the sixth age of the world, all earth being at peace,
Jesus Christ, eternal God, Son of the eternal Father,
Willing to hallow the world by his coming in mercy,
Was born of the virgin Mary in Bethlehem of Judea.
Today is the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, God made flesh.

CAROL *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

**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;**

Refrain:

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

**Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above:
"Glory to God, all glory in the highest!" [Refrain]**

**Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;
[Refrain]**

GREETING

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
 and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
C: **And also with you.**

PRAYER

L: Let us pray:
 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.
C: **Amen.**

SALUTATION AND 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 7: 10–14

L: A reading from the seventh chapter of Isaiah.

¹⁰ Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, ¹¹ "Ask the LORD your God for a sign, whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights."

¹² But Ahaz said, "I will not ask; I will not put the LORD to the test."

¹³ Then Isaiah said, "Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of humans? Will you try the patience of my God also? ¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

SPECIAL MUSIC

O Holy Night – Adolphe Adam
Madison Crytzer, flute

SECOND READING: 1 John 4: 7-16

L: A reading from the fourth chapter of First John.

⁷ Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹ This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. ¹⁰ This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹ Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

¹³ This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴ And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁵ If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. ¹⁶ And so we know and rely on the love God has for us.

God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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.**

GOSPEL: Matthew 1: 18-25

L: The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew, chapter one.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹⁸ This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

²⁰ But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³ "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us").

²⁴ When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. ²⁵ But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

L: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

GOSPEL RESPONSE *Away in a Manger*

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.

SERMON

HYMN *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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

L: Lord, in your mercy.

C: Hear our prayer.

SPECIAL MUSIC *Gesu Bamino*, Pietro Yon
Madison Crytzer, flute

PREFACE

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

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

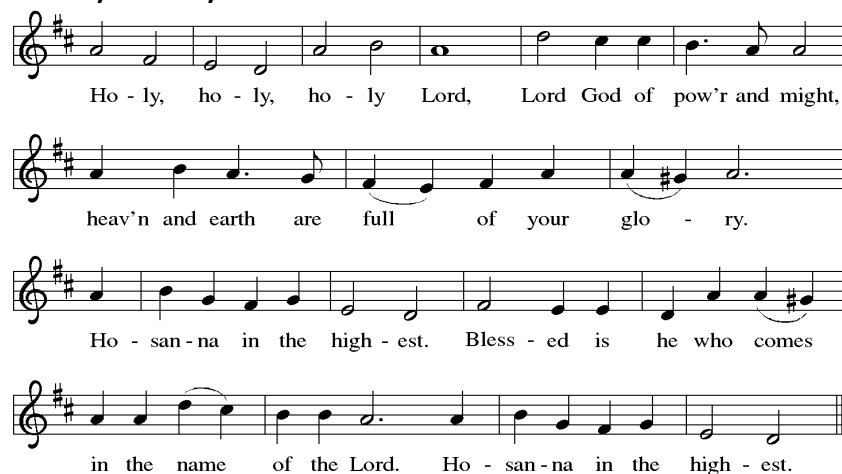
C: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

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, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n 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.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God.
You are most holy,
and great is the majesty of your glory.
You so loved the world that you gave your only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him may not perish
but have eternal life.
We give you thanks for his coming into the world
to fulfill for us your holy will
and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

**C: Christ has died. Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command,
his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and
ascension, and the promise of his coming again,
we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty,
not as we ought but as we are able;
we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving
and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants,
and these your own gifts of bread and wine,
so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ

may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace,
and, receiving the forgiveness of sin,
may be formed to live as your holy people
and be given our inheritance with all your saints.
To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.

C: Amen, amen, amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

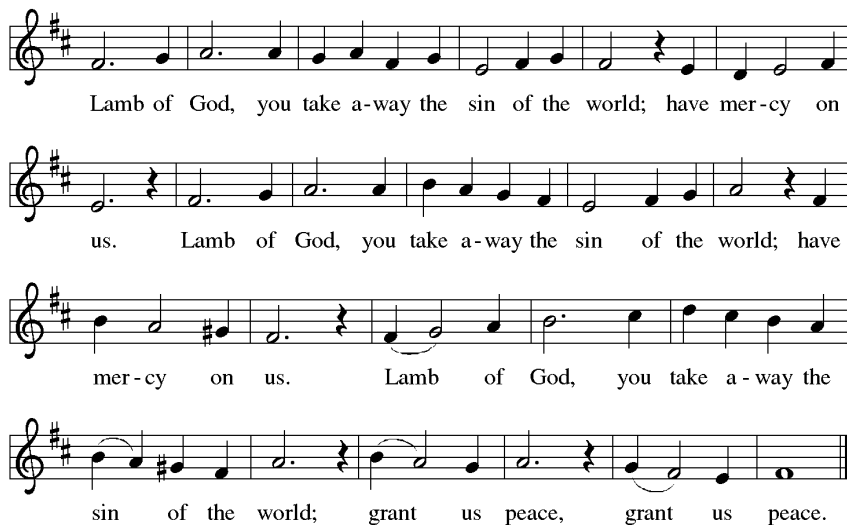
**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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

C: Amen

COMMUNION SONG



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Let us pray.

Radiant God, with our eyes we have seen your salvation,
and in this meal we have feasted on your grace. May
your Word take flesh in us, that we may be your holy
people, revealing your glory made known to us in Jesus
Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: **Amen.**

CAROLS

What Child Is This?

Evan Weston, guitar

**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!**

**Why lies he in such mean estate
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through,
The cross be borne for me, for you
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe,
the son of Mary!**

Silent Night, Holy Night

Evan Weston, guitar

**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.**

**Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight!
Glories stream from heaven afar;
Heavenly hosts sing Al-le-lu-ia!
Christ the Savior is born!
Christ the Savior is born!**

**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.**

HYMN *Joy to the World*

**Joy to the world! the Lord is come;
Let earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.**

**Joy to the earth! the Savior reigns;
Let all their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness,
And wonders of his love,
And wonders of his love,
And wonders, wonders of his love.**

DISMISSAL

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

C. Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

*Ding! Dong! Merrily on High – Kendall
Madison Crytzer, flute*

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Brian Shirey, Interim	Office Cell	724-352-2333 412-916-0122
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Ellen Dodge	Assistant Organist	724-352-2333
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Bobbie Shearer	Church Sexton	724-352-0148
Judy Gundlach	Prayer Chain	724-352-3543

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May this blessed season be
filled with peace, joy and the
renewal of all our lives!

- Church Staff

2020 Christmas Poinsettia Dedications



The beautiful poinsettias that adorn the sanctuary tonight, celebrating the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ, are provided by members and friends of St. Luke's.

To the Glory of God and the birth of our Savior...

Jeannine Sanford

Judy Moser

To the Glory of God and in Thanksgiving for...

My family & St Luke's, by Judy Moser

To the Glory of God and in honor of...

Our Family, by Paul & Marge Kollinger

Our Family, by Audrey & Jim Lott

Chuck & Marge, Family & Friends by Jeannine Sanford

My children & grandchildren, by Charlie Ekas

Doris Hickey, by Ron & Marie Riggs

To the Glory of God and in memory of...

Don Amadee, by Amy, Greg & Carol, Cole & Kelly

My wife, Kimberly A. Ekas, by Charlie Ekas

My brother, Flip Ekas, by Charlie Ekas

Our parents, by Shirley & Al Kobert

Paul G. Kollinger, Jr. by Paul & Marge Kollinger

All loved ones, by Jeannine Sanford

Evy Longdon, by Ron & Marie Riggs

Andrew & Deb, by Doris Herceg, Rachel & Noah Steiner

Flowers may be picked up Dec. 29 or 30 between 8:30 and 2:30 pm in the church.