

*St. Luke's Evangelical Lutheran Church*  
*310 West Main Street*  
*Saxonburg, PA*  
[www.stlks.com](http://www.stlks.com)

**Sunday, December 31, 2017**

**First Sunday of Christmas**

**PRELUDE**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CHRISTMAS LITANY**

Leader: God gives the special gift of life eternal, the Bethlehem Babe; born, crucified, and risen for us all.

**People: O come, O come Emmanuel, free all peoples from Satan's tyranny; from depths of hell your people save and given them victory o'er the grave.**

Leader: Rejoice, rejoice. Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

**People: God gives gifts of the Spirit to build faith and character for living life with hope, peace, joy and love.**

Leader: Love came down at Christmas, love all lovely, love divine; love was born at Christmas; star and angels gave the sign.

**People: God gives me to you and you to me; we are each other's gift of love for Christ.**

Leader: With every act of love, God brings the kingdom come.

**People: Let us bring the kingdom come, His will be done on earth as it is in heaven.**

Leader: O come all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem.

**People: Come and behold Him, born the King of angels.**

Leader: (sing) O come let us adore Him,  
People: (sing) O come let us adore Him,

All: (sing) O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

**CAROL      O Come, All Ye Faithful**

### **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.**

### **ST. LUKE'S BELL CHOIR**

*Good King Wenceslas  
I Saw Three Ships  
In the Bleak Midwinter*

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

L:      Let us pray.

Almighty God, you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of the one who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C:      **Amen.**

### **FIRST READING: Isaiah 61:10--62:3**

L:      A reading from chapter 61 of Isaiah.

<sup>10</sup>I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,  
my whole being shall exult in my God;  
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,  
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,  
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,  
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

<sup>11</sup>For as the earth brings forth its shoots,  
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,  
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise  
to spring up before all the nations.

<sup>62:1</sup>For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,  
 and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,  
 until her vindication shines out like the dawn,  
 and her salvation like a burning torch.  
<sup>2</sup>The nations shall see your vindication,  
 and all the kings your glory;  
 and you shall be called by a new name  
 that the mouth of the LORD will give.  
<sup>3</sup>You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD,  
 and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## CAROL

### PSALM: Psalm 148

<sup>1</sup>Hallelujah! Praise the LORD | from the heavens;  
 praise God | in the heights.  
<sup>2</sup>**Praise the LORD, | all you angels;**  
**sing praise, all you | hosts of heaven.**  
<sup>3</sup>Praise the LORD, | sun and moon;  
 sing praise, all you | shining stars.  
<sup>4</sup>**Praise the LORD, heav- | en of heavens,**  
**and you waters a- | bove the heavens.**  
<sup>5</sup>Let them praise the name | of the LORD,  
 who commanded, and they | were created,  
<sup>6</sup>**who made them stand fast forev- | er and ever,**  
**giving them a law that shall not | pass away.**  
<sup>7</sup>Praise the LORD | from the earth,  
 you sea monsters | and all deeps;  
<sup>8</sup>**fire and hail, | snow and fog,**  
**tempestuous wind, do- | ing God's will;**  
<sup>9</sup>mountains | and all hills,  
 fruit trees | and all cedars;  
<sup>10</sup>**wild beasts | and all cattle,**  
**creeping things and | flying birds;**  
<sup>11</sup>sovereigns of the earth | and all peoples,

princes and all rulers | of the world;

<sup>12</sup>**young | men and maidens,  
old and | young together.**

<sup>13</sup>Let them praise the name | of the LORD,  
whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over | earth  
and heaven.

<sup>14</sup>**The LORD has raised up strength for the people and praise  
for all | faithful servants,  
the children of Israel, a people who are near the LORD. |  
Hallelujah!**

## **CAROL**

### **SECOND READING: Galatians 4:4-7**

L: A reading from chapter 4 of Galatians.

<sup>4</sup>When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup>in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. <sup>6</sup>And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” <sup>7</sup>So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## **CAROL**

### **GOSPEL: Luke 2:22-40**

L: The Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke, chapter two.

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

<sup>22</sup>When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, [Joseph and Mary] brought [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord <sup>23</sup>(as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), <sup>24</sup>and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

<sup>25</sup>Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon;

this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. <sup>26</sup>It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. <sup>27</sup>Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law,

<sup>28</sup>Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

<sup>29</sup>"Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,  
according to your word;

<sup>30</sup>for my eyes have seen your salvation,

<sup>31</sup>which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

<sup>32</sup>a light for revelation to the Gentiles  
and for glory to your people Israel."

<sup>33</sup>And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. <sup>34</sup>Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed <sup>35</sup>so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

<sup>36</sup>There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, <sup>37</sup>then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. <sup>38</sup>At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

<sup>39</sup>When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth.

<sup>40</sup>The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

**L:** The gospel of the Lord.

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

## **SERMON**

## **CAROL**

## **OFFERING** *He Is Born*

## **OFFERTORY**

### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

L: Lord, in your mercy,  
C: hear our prayer.

### **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.

### **BLESSING**

L: 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.

### **CAROL**

### **POSTLUDE**

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing  
Joy to the World*

**PREPARING FOR NEXT WEEK – Genesis 1: 1-5, Psalm 29,  
Romans 6: 1-11, Mark 1:4-11**

**WELCOME!**

*Please complete the pew card before you leave worship this day.  
Pastor Keller would be happy to visit with you at the time and  
place of your choosing to answer questions about membership.  
Simply call the church office at 724-352-2333 to make an  
appointment.*

**Attendance on Sunday, December 17, 2017**

8:15	50	St. Luke's Lutheran Church	
9:30	19	310 West Main Street	
10:45	67	Saxonburg, PA 16056	724-352-2333
Nursery	3	<a href="mailto:stlukechurch@consolidated.net">stlukechurch@consolidated.net</a>	
Total	139		

**THIS MORNING'S WORSHIP MINISTRY TEAM INCLUDES:**

	8:15 Service	10:45 Service
ACOLYTES	Austin Heade and Alex Kadunce	Molly Begeman and Eli Keller
ALTAR GUILD		
GREETERS	Karen Foertsch and Linda Heade	Helen McLafferty and Judy Moser
LECTOR/ASST. MIN	Jeff Markwell	Jennifer Keller
OFFER. COUNTERS	Jeff Hartzell and Bill Gordon	
USHERS	Ron Boltz and Tim Markwell	John and Kelly Weston

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