

# † Christmas Eve Festival †



**“Generosity & Truth”  
John 1**

# ✠ The Divine Liturgy ✠

“Love the Creator & His Creation Like Jesus”  
Saint Luke Lutheran Church | December 24, 2020

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## † Baptism — The Way of Faith †

### Remembering Our Baptism Journey

Father, Creator of all heaven and earth, ✠ **you save us from our selfishness and make us your children through Baptism.** ✠ Through your Son, whose example we follow, ✠ **we die to Civilization's Way of arrogance, fear, and control.** ✠ Through your Spirit, who dwells among us, ✠ **we are reborn in Jesus's Way of faith, hope, and love.** ✠ We pray that you will complete this work of Baptism within us, ✠ **as we daily surrender to you and listen to your every word.**

(the Christ candle is lit to remind us that Jesus is present among us)

*♪ O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray; cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today. We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell; O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel! ♪ (tune: LSB 361)*

### Surrendering to the Creator

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit ✠ **we surrender our minds, bodies, and whole lives to you.**

(we make the sign of the cross, touching forehead, heart, and shoulders)

We let go of control ✠ **and submit ourselves into your loving hands.** ✠ We leave behind our people-pleasing ✠ **and seek only your approval.** ✠ We walk away from our reliance on self, family, and nation ✠ **and trust you for everything we need.** *♪ Take my life and all my heart, take my whole soul ev'ry part. Take my mouth and let it be, filled with your truth and mercy. ♪ Take my hands and let them love, with compassion from above. Take my feet and let them go, on the Way that Jesus showed. ♪ Take my things and my money, give me faith and set me free. Take my life and teach me how, to love all creation now. ♪ (tune: LSB 783)*

### Christmas Litany

We are not alone, ✠ **for our Creator is living among us!**  
Let all creation rejoice, ✠ **for our Creator is living among us!**  
Let every knee bow, ✠ **for our Creator is living among us!**  
Through a baby born in poverty, ✠ **our Creator has come to live among us.**  
He has come to rescue us ✠ **and save us from ourselves.**  
He has come to open our eyes ✠ **and show us how to be truly human.**

### Song ✠ *LSB 379 "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; O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ, the*

Lord! ♪

♪ God of God, Light of Light eternal, Lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb; Son of the Father, begotten, not created, 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!" 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 all glory giv'n; Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing; O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord! ♪

### Prayer of the Day

The Lord Jesus be with you. ✠ **And also with you.** ✠ Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, help us to embrace your generosity and truth that you have sent in Jesus. In the name of Jesus, your Son, our Lord. **Amen.**

(sit)

### Listening to the Creator

We gather at the feet of our Lord Jesus, listening to his word and allowing it to change and shape our minds, decisions, and lives. ♪ *Listen to what Jesus teaches, listen to him every day. Listen as you walk and follow, listen also as you pray. Listen to him every moment, listen with an open mind. Listen to find peace and patience, listen so you will be kind.* ♪ (tune: LSB 770)

### Remembering the Saints & Martyrs ✠ Nicholas of Myra

Father, we give you thanks for your Spirit-filled saints and witnesses who have gone before us and have embodied the Way of Jesus. Today we remember Nicholas (270-343 AD) who was left to be raised by Christians after his wealthy parents died and spread his inheritance around by helping those in need. On one occasion he threw three bags of gold in the window of a very poor man, saving each of the man's three daughters from a life of prostitution. Help us learn from his faith and example, **Amen.**

### Chanted Psalm ✠ Psalm 59



♪ O Lord, you are my strength, I | watch for you,

\* you are my fortress on whom I | can rely.

O Lord, you will go | before me

\* and protect me from | all evil.

The Lord rules over | all the earth.

\* I will sing of your love, in | the morning.

You are my strength, I sing | praise to you;

\* you are my fortress on whom I | can rely. ♪

Law & Prophets ✕ Jeremiah 1:4-10

The Prophets reading comes from Jeremiah 1. ✕ **We listen with open hearts.**  
This is the word of our Creator. ✕ **Thank you, Lord, for speaking to us.**

Bell Choir

Epistle ✕ 2 Corinthians 4:7—5:10

The epistle reading comes from 2 Corinthians 4. ✕ **We listen with open hearts.**  
This is the word of our Creator. ✕ **Thank you, Lord, for speaking to us.**

(stand)

† Holy Gospel † John 1:1-18

We stand for the word of Jesus. ♪ *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 man no more may die, born to raise us on the earth, born to give us second birth. Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"* ♪ (tune: LSB 380)

The holy Gospel comes from John 1. ✕ **Jesus, we listen, ready to follow you.**

This is the Gospel of our Lord Jesus. ✕ **We will trust and obey.**

♪ *Oh you heights of heav'n, adore him; angel hosts, his praises sing. Pow'rs, dominions, bow before him and extol our God and King. Let no tongue on earth be silent, ev'ry voice in concert ring, evermore and evermore.* ♪ (tune: LSB 384)

(sit)

Message

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## † Repentance — The Way of Hope †

Confronting Our Past

Let us reflect on how the word of Jesus is speaking into our lives this day.

(silence for reflection)

For serving the false gods of self, family, and nation, ✕ **Father, forgive us.** ✕

For trusting the technology and works of human hands, ✕ **Father, forgive us.**

✕ For being hypocrites who misrepresent your name, ✕ **Father, forgive us.** ✕

For not living in restful harmony with land, animals, and each other, ✕ **Father, forgive us.** ✕

For not listening to and caring for our fathers and mothers in Christ, ✕ **Father, forgive us.** ✕

For being violent to our bodies and your creation, ✕ **Father, forgive us.** ✕

For not keeping our sexuality within marriage, ✕ **Father, forgive us.** ✕

For trying to possess and control your creation, ✕ **Father, forgive us.** ✕

For not being vulnerable and truthful with others, ✕ **Father, forgive us.** ✕

For competing with others and not being content with our lives, ✕ **Father, forgive us.** ✕

Father, turn us back to walking in your Spirit. ♪ *Lord Father we have wandered and hidden from your face.*

***Rescue your whole creation with your almighty grace. From trust in wealth and weapons and blindness to your Way, save us and all creation with your own hands, we pray. ♪ (tune: LSB 449)***

Will you turn away from the Way of Civilization and reaffirm the Creator's claim upon you through your Baptism into the Way of Jesus? ✠ **Yes, I renounce the Way of Civilization and pledge my full allegiance to Jesus.** ✠ Will you release all debts and grudges that you hold against anyone—including yourself and every member of this church? ✠ **Yes, I forgive all those who have hurt me, frustrated me, or owe me anything.** ✠ Our heavenly Father heals all those who return to his loving arms. You are forgiven and set free from all slavery to live life in the Way of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit! ✠ **Amen.**

(stand)

Song ✠ ***LSB 370 "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 praise, the babe the son of Mary. ♪***

***♪ Why lies he in a humble state, where animals are feeding? Good Christians fear, for sinners here the silent Word is pleading. Nails, spear will pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you. Hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe the son of Mary. ♪***

***♪ So bring him ev'rything you own, come to love and follow him. The King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him. Raise, raise a song on high, for through the Lord we learn to die. Joy, joy for Christ is born, the babe the son of Mary. ♪***

Waiting on the Creator

***♪ Our Father, bring your Rule and will to earth. Give what we need for worry-free rebirth. Bring peace among us and forgive us too, as we forgive and love in all we do. ♪ Protect us from all things that will mislead. Keep us from selfishness, violence, and greed. We place our lives into your hands this day. Teach us to listen and to walk your Way. Amen. ♪ (tune: LSB 637)***

(incense is lit to symbolize our prayers ascending to God and as its smell fills this space we are reminded of his presence among us)

***In peace, let us pray to the Lord, ♪ Lord have mercy. ♪***

**Our Father in heaven, make your name holy, bring your Rule, make your will be done—on earth as in heaven.** ✠ Father, heal your creation that we have harmed and destroyed by reuniting heaven and earth through Jesus and your Spirit. Bring your loving discipline, judgment, and peace upon us, all those in authority, and all creation. Open the hearts of all, so we may trust and obey the word of Jesus. ***Let us pray to the Lord, ♪ Lord have mercy. ♪***

**Give us this day our daily bread.** ✠ Father, be our provider and protector. Take care of us and heal our brokenness. Especially, we remember Charlene

Sargent, Jack Wagner, Georgia & Jamey Story, Maggie Belcher, Sue Loehr, Jan Zugelder, Ron Wagner, Polly Browne, Jay Hastings, COVID-19 victims, the Disciple Garden, and those we name in our hearts... Father, give us exactly what we need this day and teach us to be content with that. *Let us pray to the Lord, ♪ Lord have mercy. ♪*

**Forgive us our debts as we forgive those in debt to us.** ✕ Father, forgive us and free us from all that enslaves us. Help us to walk away from our addictions to Civilization's Way so we may walk in Jesus's Way. Empower us to forgive the debts and sins of all who repent, even our enemies, in the same way you have forgiven us. *Let us pray to the Lord, ♪ Lord have mercy. ♪*

**Do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil.** ✕ Father, grow our trust in you and keep us from being tested when we are not yet ready. Free us from fear, self-indulgence, competition, ownership, and violence. Comfort us in the hope that your creation and children will be renewed and raised from the dead. *Let us pray to the Lord, ♪ Lord have mercy. ♪*

**For all authority, power, and glory are yours—now and forever.** ✕ Father, we thank you for all that you give—life, daily provision, and salvation from death and slavery. Empower us to celebrate your love through a life of patient courage, self-discipline, humility, generosity, and kindness. Help us to let go of being in charge so we might entrust our lives fully into your hands, trusting that you work all things to the good of those who love you. ✕ **Amen.**

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## † Communion — The Way of Love †

### Sharing the Lord's Peace

We prepare to be united as one Body and communion at the Lord's table by sharing with each other the peace and love our Father has freely given to us.

(sit)

### Offering

Everything belongs to our Father and is to be used to love each other in the same way Jesus has loved us. Therefore, we offer our entire lives as a living sacrifice to him while also offering gifts to support this communion.

### Musical Offering ✕ "O Holy Night"

(stand)

### Pledge of Allegiance

***♪ We come before you, Lord, to bow. We lay our lives at your feet now. All things are yours, we own nothing! Our lives are in your hands this day. Give what we need, O Lord, we pray. Please protect us, provide for us! Watch over us, ever with us, always love us! ♪ (tune: LSB 816)***

Lord Jesus, we pledge our obedience and every part of our lives to you...  
**I pledge allegiance to God the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.**

I pledge allegiance to Jesus the Christ, who is God's only Son and my Lord. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. The third day he rose from the dead. He ascended to heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father almighty. He is coming to judge the living and the dead.

I pledge allegiance to the Holy Spirit, the holy universal Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life with God, now and always. Amen.

### Thanksgiving

The Lord Jesus be with you. ✠ **And also with you.** ✠ Lift up your hearts! ✠ **We lift them to the Lord!** ✠ Let us give thanks to our Creator! ✠ **It is right to give him thanks and praise!** ✠ Praise and thanks are due to you, Father, ✠ **for you provide, protect, love, and renew us and all creation!** ✠ We are grateful that you bring heaven and earth together through Jesus's love for all creation!

*♪ Let all creation be humble and rejoice in awe and fear. We give thanks to our Lord Jesus who brings heaven to us here. He is giving himself to us and his presence has come near. ♪ (tune: LSB 621)*

### † Words of Our Lord Jesus †

On the night before our Lord Jesus was crucified, he revealed his Way of rescuing all creation from the Way of Civilization. Before supper, Jesus humbly washed the feet of his students and enemies. He said, "Follow my example. Love each other in the same way I have loved you." During supper, Jesus then took the bread and broke it. He gave it to them, saying, "This is my body which is being given for you. Do the same for each other in my memory." After supper, Jesus then took the cup and gave thanks. He said, "This is my blood which is being shed for you, for the forgiveness of all of your sin. Do the same for each other in my memory." *♪ When we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim your death Lord Jesus. So as we share this feast may we, remember your love for us. Help us now to follow your Way, and to walk in your goodness. Always make us one in you. ♪ (tune: LSB 384)*

### Invitation to the Table

We gather around Jesus's table, trusting that he is truly giving his whole self to us through this bread, wine, and communion. As we receive the Lord's gifts, we commit ourselves to laying down our lives for each member of this church in the same Way that Jesus has laid down his life for us. We invite all Baptized members of the holy universal Church, who give their undivided allegiance to Jesus and are at peace with their brothers and sisters in Christ, to join us in this mysterious communion of heaven and earth. *♪ Oh come, Lord Jesus, come and dine, and give yourself through bread and wine. Feed us so we may have new birth, and bring your rule ov'r all the earth. Come now! Come now! Our Lord Jesus, and bring your healing love to us! ♪ (tune: LSB 357)*

(sit)

## Sharing the Bread & Wine

(stand)

Sent to “Do the Same in My Memory”

Lord Jesus, you feed us with the bread of life ✠ **your body, given for us.** ✠ You judge us and heal us with your love and mercy ✠ **your blood, shed for us.** ✠ Now help us to do the same in your memory ✠ **as we care for our own bodies, share our whole lives with the church, and serve all your creation.** ✠ Lord, fill us with your Holy Spirit so we may always reflect your love. ✠ **Amen.**  
*♪ 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. ♪ 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, and wonders of his love. ♪ (tune: LSB 387)*

Blessing

May the Father bless you and hold you in his hands. May the Son empower you to love all his creation in the way he has loved you. May the Holy Spirit fill your body and give you a peace that is free of all anxiety. ✠ **Amen.**

(light your candle)

Song ✠ *LSB 363 “Silent Night, Holy Night”*

- ♪ Silent night! Holy night! All is calm, all is bright. The virgin gives birth to a child, holy infant so tender and mild. He brings heavenly peace, he brings heavenly peace. ♪*
- ♪ Silent night! Holy night! This child gives us true sight. He opens our blind eyes to see, he's the one to set us free. Christ the Savior is born! Christ the Savior is born! ♪*
- ♪ Silent night! Holy night! God's Son is love's pure light. Radiant truth from his holy face, he's the dawn of redeeming grace. Jesus, Lord at your birth! Jesus, Lord at your birth! ♪*

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### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Scripture Study - Wednesdays at 6:00 pm we are going through Hebrews (off Dec 23 & 30).
- Table Talk - Join us on Mondays at 6:00 pm for our table talk discussions (off Dec 28).



## Weekly Calendar | December 20 - 27, 2020

<b>Sun Dec 20</b>	8:30-9:10 am	Individual Confession & Forgiveness
	9:30 am	The Divine Liturgy "Judgment for the Saints"   Daniel 7-9
	10:45 am	Food & Fellowship
	11:15 am	Text of the Day Study
<b>Mon Dec 21</b>	8:30-11:30 am	Pastor Luke's Office Hours
	6:00 pm	Table Talk
<b>Tues Dec 22</b>	8:30-11:30 am	Pastor Luke's Office Hours
<b>Wed Dec 23</b>	8:30-11:30 am	Pastor Luke's Office Hours
<b>Thurs Dec 24</b>	6:30 pm	Christmas Eve "Generosity & Truth"   John 1
<b>Fri Dec 25</b>		Pastor Luke's Sabbath
<b>Sat Dec 26</b>		
<b>Sun Dec 27</b>	8:30-9:10 am	Individual Confession & Forgiveness
	9:30 am	The Divine Liturgy "Into the Light"   John 2-3
	10:45 am	Food & Fellowship
	11:15 am	Text of the Day Study

### Thought of the Week

"We should be obedient to God rather than those who have arrogantly made themselves leaders. We will bring great danger upon ourselves if we surrender ourselves to the purposes of men." (1 Clement)

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