

† Christmas Eve †

“The Christ Has Arrived”



“Truth Came Through Jesus”

John 1:1-18

✠ The Divine Liturgy ✠

“Love the Creator & His Creation Like Jesus”
Saint Luke Lutheran Church | December 24, 2023

Invocation

Father, Creator of all heaven and earth, ✠ **you save us from our selfishness and make us your children through Baptism, Repentance, and Communion.** ✠ Through your Son Jesus, who is your Word embodied in flesh, ✠ **we die to Civilization's Way of arrogance, fear, and violence.** ✠ Through your Holy Spirit, who dwells among us and within us, ✠ **we are reborn in Jesus's Way of faith, hope, and love.**

Processional 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!* ♫

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.**

† Baptism — The Way of Faith †

Surrendering to the Creator

Jesus says, “You must be born again through water and the Spirit ✠ **to enter the Creator's Kingdom.**” ✠ Father, Son, & Holy Spirit ✠ **I surrender to you all of my mind, all of my heart, and all of my body and soul.**

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

Jesus says, “If you love your self, family, or nation more than me, ✠ **you cannot be my disciple.** ✠ If you hold onto your life, you will destroy it, ✠ **but if you let go of your life, you will save it.**” ✠ Father, into your hands ✠ **I commit my spirit.** ✠ Father, not my will, ✠ **but your will be done.** ♫ *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 money and fam'ly, give me faith and set me free. Take my life and teach me how to love all creation now. ♪ (LSB 783)

Prayer of the Day

Jesus says, "Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there with them."
(the Christ candle is lit to remind us that Jesus is coming 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)*

The Lord Jesus be with you. ✠ **And also with you.** ✠ Let us pray. Heavenly Father, help us to see that your truth is seen most clearly only in Jesus. In the name of Jesus, your Son, our Lord. ✠ **Amen.**

Listening to the Creator

Jesus says, "Come to me, all of you who are tired and burdened. Learn from me and practice my teachings and you will find rest for your souls. Those who listen will live." ♪ *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. ♪ (LSB 770)*

Remembering the Saints & Martyrs ✠ Nicholas of Myra

Father, we give you thanks for the great cloud of 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 60*



♪ *Lord, you have shaken the land and torn | it open,
* mend its fractures and | restore us.
Save us and help us with | your right hand,
* that those you love may | be rescued.
So give us your aid against the | enemy,
* for all human help | is worthless.
With God alone we will gain the | victory,
* and he will be victorious | over all. ♪*

Law & Prophets ✠ Isaiah 40:1-8

The Prophets reading comes from Isaiah 40. ✠ **Blessed are the ears that listen.**
We do not live on bread alone, ✠ **but on every word from the Lord.**

Epistle ✠ Hebrews 3:7-19

The Epistle reading comes from Hebrews 3. ✠ **Blessed are the ears that listen.**

We do not live on bread alone, ✠ **but on every word from the Lord.**

† 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. ✠ **Blessed are those who listen to Jesus.**

If you have ears to hear, then listen! ✠ **Lord Jesus, help us to practice your Word.**

Message

† Repentance — The Way of Hope †

Confronting Our Past

Jesus says, “I know everything you do. Pay attention and remove the log from your own eye. I have called you out of Civilization. Repent, the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand!”

(silence for reflection)

For not loving you with our whole hearts and instead placing our self, family, and nation above you, ✠ **Father, forgive us.** ✠ For not loving our neighbors and enemies as ourselves, ✠ **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.*** ♪ (LSB 449)

Jesus says, “I discipline those I love. Come out of Civilization, my people, so you will not share in its sins and plagues. Not one stone will be left standing, it will all be torn down.” Will you turn away from Civilization’s Way of arrogance, fear, and violence and reaffirm your Baptism into Jesus’s Way of faith, hope, and love? ✠ **Yes, I renounce Civilization’s Way and pledge to follow Jesus.** ✠ Jesus says, “Put your sword away. If you live by the sword, you will die by the sword. But if you forgive others, your heavenly Father will forgive you.” 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.** ✠ Jesus says, “Your sins are forgiven. Get up and walk. Go and sin no more.” ✠ **Amen.**

Song of the Day ✠ **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.* ♪ (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)

Jesus says, “Learn from the birds. They do not store up for tomorrow and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Do not fear or worry about tomorrow. Not a hair from your head will be destroyed. Seek only your Father’s Rule and he will give you everything you need.” *In peace, let us pray to the Lord, ♪ Lord have mercy.* ♪

Our Father in heaven, may your name be holy, may your Kingdom come, and may your will be done—on earth as in heaven. Give us this day what we need for today. Forgive us in the same way that we forgive others. Do not abandon us when we are tempted, but pull us away from what is evil. For all authority, power, and glory are yours—now and forever. Amen. ✠ Father, provide for us, protect us, and be with us always. Father, give us exactly what we need this day and teach us to be content with that. Help us to trust that you are working all things for our good. *In peace, let us pray to the Lord, ♪ Lord have mercy.* ♪

† Communion — The Way of Love †

Sharing the Lord’s Peace

Jesus says, “Make peace with each other ✠ **before you come to the Lord’s altar.** By this all people will know that you are my disciples: ✠ **if you love each other.**”

Offering

Jesus says, “Do not store up things on earth. To be my disciple you must give up everything you own. Sell your possessions and give to the poor.” We offer all we have to the Lord, while also offering gifts to support this communion.

Musical Offering

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. Jesus said, ✠ **“Follow my example. Love each other, even your enemies, 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.”

♫ *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!* ♫ (LSB 357)

Invitation to the Table

Jesus says, “Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood is united with me and will be raised from the dead.” 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 to laying down our lives for each member of this church in the 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 between the Creator and his creation.

♫ *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.* ♫ (tune: LSB 368)

Sharing the Bread & Wine

Sent to “Do the Same in My Memory”

Christ Jesus, as we feed on you ✠ **we are made members of your Body.** ✠ We no longer live for ourselves ✠ **but you, Lord Christ, live within us.** ✠ As you have laid down your body and blood for us, ✠ **help us to do the same for each other in your memory.** ✠ Jesus says, “Go and live this truth: ✠ **The Kingdom of Heaven is at hand!** ✠ Heal the sick, raise the dead, ✠ **cleanse the unclean, and cast out evil spirits.** ✠ Freely you have received from the Lord, ✠ **now freely you must give.** ✠ I am sending you like sheep among wolves, ✠ **but do not fear, take up your cross and follow me.”**

♫ *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)

Candle Lighting

We light our candles, signifying that Christ Jesus, the Light of all creation has come among us and now shines his light through us and our lives of peace and love.

Song ✠ LSB 366 “It Came Upon a Midnight Clear”

♫ *It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old, from angels bending*

near the earth to touch their harps of gold: "Peace on the earth, good will to men, from heaven's all-gracious King." The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing. ♪

♪ *All you, beneath your heavy load, by care and guilt bent low, who toil along a dreary way with painful steps and slow: Look up, for golden is the hour, come swiftly on the wing, the Prince was born to bring you peace; of Him the angels sing. ♪*

♪ *For lo, the days have come to pass by prophets seen of old, when down into the circling years came Christ as was foretold. His word of peace will to the earth God's ancient promise bring, and all who take this gift will hear the song the angels sing. ♪*

Blessing

Jesus says, "Blessed are you in your poverty and suffering, for you are in the Creator's Rule. Blessed are you in your humility, for you will inherit the earth. Blessed are you when you are merciful and peaceful, for you will find mercy and peace." ✠ **Amen.**

Choir ✠ "Peace, Peace"

The congregation will sing the first verse of "Silent Night" while the choir sings "Peace, Peace" the third time.

Recessional 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! ♪*

Saint Luke's Mission Focus

Fasting	Communing
Observing	Healing
Listening	Resting
Letting-go	Imitating
Obeying	Sharing
Working	Thanksgiving

* Faith & Film: “The Young Messiah” Jan 8, 15 @ DG
 “Pig” Jan 22, 29 @ DG
 “Before I Wake” Feb 12, 19 @ DG
 * Scripture Study: “Ecclesiastes” Wed, 6 pm (resumes Jan 3)

Weekly Calendar December 24 - 31, 2023		
Sun, Dec 24	9:30 am	Divine Liturgy “Stop the Finger Pointing” Isaiah 58—59
	10:45 am	Food & Fellowship Text-of-the-Day Study
	6:00 pm	Christmas Eve “Truth Came Through Jesus” John 1:1-18
Mon, Dec 25		
Wed, Dec 27		
Thurs, Dec 28		
Sat, Dec 30	7-9 am	Breakfast & Devotion
Sun, Dec 31	9:30 am	Divine Liturgy “Come & See” John 1:19-51
	10:45 am	Food & Fellowship Text-of-the-Day Study

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