

December 3, 2023
First Sunday of Advent

P: Pastor C: Congregation

Prelude *Pastorale on "Picardy"* arr. Young

Lighting of the Advent Candle

P: Praise to you, O God, our salvation who is near. You hold us in our waiting and keep us awake to the world. You show up in our lives at unexpected times. Bless us as we light this candle to keep vigil for your arrival. We trust that even though we do not know the day or the hour, you hurry to gather all people to your peace.

C: Amen.

Hymn *O Lord, How Shall I Meet You* *insert*

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who opens the heavens and draws near to us with salvation.

C: Amen.

P: God is patient and merciful, desiring all to come to repentance. Trusting this promise of grace, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Everlasting God,

C: you love justice and you hate wrongdoing. We confess the fear, greed, and self-centeredness that make us reluctant to work against oppression. We are complicit in systems of exploitation. We choose comfort over courage. We are careless with creation's bounty. Look upon us with mercy. Turn our hearts again to you. Make us glad to do your will and to walk in your ways for the sake of our waiting world. Amen.

P: Hear these words of assurance: God clothes you with garments of salvation and covers you with robes of righteousness. In the tender compassion of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. God's covenant is eternal, and God's blessing rests upon us all.

C: Amen.

Greeting

P: Sisters and brothers in Christ, beloved children of God, grace, mercy, and peace be with you all.

C: And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

P: Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

Readings (insert)

Message

The Nicene Creed

C: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten,
not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of
the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was
crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day
he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is
seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living
and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the
Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and
glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy
catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the
forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the
life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

Sharing the Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Special Music

Immanuel and Savior

Dennis & Gail Faust

Offering Prayer

P: God our provider, by your merciful hand abundance springs up from the earth.
Receive and bless these gifts of your bounty. Let them be a sign of your steadfast love
and faithfulness for all people, through Jesus Christ our Savior.

C: Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

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.

P: It is indeed right, our duty...

...hosts of heaven we praise your name and join in their unending hymn:

C: Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

The Eucharistic Prayer

P: In the night in which he was betrayed...

Brought together as one by the Holy Spirit let us pray as Jesus taught us.

The Lord's Prayer

C: 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.

Distribution of Communion

Prayer After Communion

P: Generous God, in bread and cup you have revealed your glory for all people to see together. Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim your good news of liberation and release, brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior.

C: Amen.

Blessing

P: The God of peace bless you, the love of Christ sustain you in hope, and the anointing of the Spirit ✠ remain upon you now and forever.

C: Amen

Hymn: Hark, the Glad Sound

insert

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Keep awake.

C: Thanks be to God.

Thank you for your continuous, weekly/monthly, tithes and offerings for St. Luke's and Christ's Ministry. Your steady giving provides the financial support necessary for the church to care for the members and to reach out to our community.

Annual Congregational Meeting - The annual congregational meeting will be held on Sunday January 28th @ 10:30 am in the Fellowship Hall. Welcome Center - Light snacks / coffee / water will be available. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend. During the Congregational meeting we will review the reports of the Church Committee's and Task Force activities for 2023. We will also review and approve the Budget for 2024 and elect members to join the Church Council for 2024.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdmTACbGELyR5nMZhiFO_t-PTUMPVjNwJthRL8s5_N0VKGx6w/viewform

BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE - St. Luke's will offer a Blue Christmas service on Sunday, December 17th at 2:00. As Christians, we know the promise and hope that the Christmas season brings for us. "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it." (John 1:5) It is a blessing for us to celebrate that joy together. Let us be a blessing for each other as we acknowledge the challenges we have, and currently, face as well. Join us in the sanctuary for this message of hope during a season that may not be joyful for everyone. Prayer and candle-lighting included.