

# St. Luke Lutheran Church

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*The Nativity of Our Lord*

*December 24, 2024*

Our Guiding Story and Mission:

The Road to Emmaus: Luke 24:13-35

As the Body of Christ, we proclaim the Gospel by serving  
and doing God's will in a manner that  
meets the needs of our changing world.

*Welcome to St. Luke!*

We are glad you have joined us this evening.

In this bulletin you will see these abbreviations:

P: spoken by the Pastor    C: **Congregation responds**

WOV—With One voice— blue hymnal

LBW—Lutheran Book of Worship—green hymnal

\* stand as you are able



## GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

### **Preludes:**

Hammered Dulcimer and Flute:

Angels We Have Heard on High  
O Come O Ye Faithful  
Joy to The World

Following the preludes there will be a Moment of Silence

**\*Gathering Hymn:** O Come, All Ye Faithful LBW 45

### **\*Apostolic Greeting**

P. Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, who sends the word with angels, who is made flesh among all peoples, and who breathes peace on all the earth.

**C. Amen.**

### **\*Lighting the Christ Candle**

P: The Advent Wreath is complete, with the Christ Candle in the center. "For unto us a child is given, unto us a Savior is born, and the order of the world will be upon his shoulders." With the birth of Christ our lives are centered, focused, turned toward God. Therefore, as we light this Candle we proclaim that Christ is the center of our lives. Let us pray.

**C: Merciful God, who comes to us in Jesus, on this night, as we celebrate the birth of Jesus, let the power of Christ come into our hearts, that we might find peace with you forever. Amen.**

**Ministry of Music: Choir:** When I Kneel at the Manger Tonight

**WORD**

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song

**First Reading:** Isaiah 9:2-7 (please see Celebrate insert)

**Carol:** Hark! The Herald Angels Sing LBW 60 vv. 1 & 2

**Second Reading:** Titus 2:11-14 (please see Celebrate insert)

**Carol:** Hark! The Herald Angels Sing LBW 60 v. 3

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the second chapter.

**C: Glory to You, O Lord**

**\*Gospel:** Luke 2:1-14 [15-20] (please see Celebrate insert)

P: The Gospel of our Lord.

**C: Praise to You, O Christ**

**Ministry of Music:** A Christmas Alleluia Sarah Kneller

**Message:** The Rev. Angela Hammer

**\*Carol:** What Child is This LBW 40

**\*Passing the Peace:**

P: The peace of the Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Let us share his peace with one another.

**\*Prayers of Intercession:** (please see Celebrate insert)

## MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

### **\*Communion Prayer:**

P: Good and loving God, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace.

As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be a blessing for others. With the trees of the field, with all the earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

### **\*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.**

### **\*Preface for Christmas:**

P: 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:

**\*Sanctus (Holy, Holy, Holy)**

Holy, holy, holy Lord, 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.

**\*Eucharistic Prayer:**

P: Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you for your promise to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.

Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,  
the Word made flesh.

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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**C: Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

With this bread and cup  
we remember your Word dwelling among us,  
full of grace and truth.  
We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.  
We look with hope for his coming.  
**C: Come, Lord Jesus.**

P: Holy God, we long for your Spirit.  
Come among us.  
Bless this meal.  
May your Word take flesh in us.  
Awaken your people.  
Fill us with your light.  
Bring the gift of peace on earth.  
**C: Come, Holy Spirit.**

P: All praise and glory are yours,  
Holy One of Israel,  
Word of God incarnate,  
Power of the Most High,  
one God, now and forever.  
**C: Amen.**

### **\*The Lord's Prayer**

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:  
**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**



**\*Invitation to Communion**

P: This is Christ's table, and he is the host of this meal. So come, you who have much faith and you who would like to have more; you who have been here often and you who have not been here for a while; you who have tried to follow Jesus, and you who have failed. Come! Christ promises to meet us here.

**\*Agnus Dei (Lamb of God)**

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
grant us peace, grant us peace.

**Distribution of Communion:**

*All are welcome and encouraged to receive the forgiveness and community that are given in the bread and wine. Come forward as directed.*

**Music during the distribution:**

Guitar and Flute:

Happy Birthday Jesus  
Shepherd Boy  
God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen

Piano and Flute:

I Wonder as I Wander



**\*Communion Blessing**

P: The body of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

**\*Prayer after Communion:**

P: God our redeemer,  
you have fed us at this table  
with gifts of grace, truth, and life.  
As you have gathered us in joy,  
send us forth as messengers of your peace.  
Make us shine with the good news of your glory,  
born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.



**The Gospel Promise:**

P: Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them.

C: He has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of his servant David.

P: We go before the Lord to prepare his way into the lives of others, to give knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins.

C: By the tender mercy of God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.



**Passing of the Light** – *The Acolytes will present light to the first worshiper in each pew, who passes it on. The lit candle is always held upright when giving light to another.*

**Music during the passing of the Light:**

Linda Holt and Wyatt Hammer, Guitar & Emily Holt, flute

Once all candles are lit, please join in singing “Silent Night”.

**Hymn: Silent Night**

Stille Nacht, heilige nacht, Alles schlaft, einsam wacht, Nur das traute, hoch heilige paar, Holder knabe im lockigen haar, Schlaf in himmlisher ruh’,Schlaf in himmlisher ruh’.

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, Alleluia!  
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!

Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love’s pure light  
Radiant beams from thy holy face, With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth. Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

*(Hum together for one verse)*



## SENDING

God sends us boldly into the world to share the good news

### \*A Christmas Prayer (please raise your candles)

P: Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true light of the world – Jesus your Son.

C: Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence, and let our light so shine before others, that they may see our good works and glorify you – our Father in heaven. Amen. *(you may extinguish your candles)*

### \*Blessing:

P: The God of hope fill us with joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ Jesus, the Word made flesh.

C: Amen.

### \*Hymn

Joy to the World

LBW 39

### \*Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Share the gift of the Christ child.

C: Thanks be to God.

### Postlude



As you exit please leave candles in the boxes provided in the entry way as you leave the service tonight.

Thank you: to our musicians, acolytes, and all who helped prepare our walkways and worship space for tonight and to all who share their time and talents throughout the year.

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**Our worshipping community:**

**Pastor:** Rev. Angela Hammer      **Minister of Music:** Linda Holt

**Worship Assistants:**

Mike & Sue DeLong, Donna Rhodes and Paula Benson

**Lay Readers:**

Donna Moyer, Faith Thunberg, Richelle Deysher

**Ministers:** The People of St. Luke Church

**Thursday—December 26**

11:30 AM-1:00 PM    Community Free Meal

**Sunday, December 29**

10:30 AM    Lessons and Carols Service  
                 at St. Paul in Penryn

5:30 - 7:00 PM      Community Free Meal

*Connect with St. Luke*

On our website, you can find current events and links to our online worship services via Facebook or YouTube. Direct access to

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/StLukeEvangelicalLutheran](http://www.facebook.com/StLukeEvangelicalLutheran)

YouTube: [www.youtube.com/@stlukeschaefferstownpa](http://www.youtube.com/@stlukeschaefferstownpa)

**Office Hours:**

Thursday, December 26                      10:00 AM-4:00 PM

Saturday, December 28                      10:00 AM-4:00 PM

Monday, December 30                      9:00 AM-12:00 PM

From December 31-January 17,  
emails and phone messages will be monitored.



Christ  
our Saviour  
is Born

