

**Welcome!** We are happy to share God's peace with everyone. Visitors are invited to sign our guest book in the entryway. If you have any questions, the ushers are ready to help. Feel free to visit after the service.

- Aids to assist with hearing (Williams Sound System) are available from the ushers.
- Large Print Hymnal Binders are available on the tract desk for those with vision difficulties.

**Please note: the Sunday service is being recorded and streamed on YouTube.**

**[www.youtube.com/@stlukesvassar](http://www.youtube.com/@stlukesvassar)**

### ***Advent Candle Symbolism***

*The second candle that we light today is called the Bethlehem Candle (sometimes also called the Peace Candle). The candle can be either violet or blue. It reminds us that our Savior Jesus was born of the Virgin Mary in the town of Bethlehem.*

## Setting 2, pg. 172

### Hymn

CW 319

- 1 Jesus came, the heav'ns adoring,  
     came with peace from realms on high;  
 Jesus came to win redemption,  
     lowly came on earth to die;  
 Alleluia! Alleluia!  
     came in deep humility.
- 2 Jesus comes again in mercy  
     when our hearts are worn with care;  
 Jesus comes again in answer  
     to an earnest, heartfelt prayer,  
 Alleluia! Alleluia!  
     comes to save us from despair.
- 3 Jesus comes to hearts rejoicing,  
     bringing news of sins forgiv'n;  
 Jesus comes with words of gladness,  
     leading souls redeemed to heav'n.  
 Alleluia! Alleluia!  
     Hope to all the world is giv'n.  
*Please rise for the final stanza*
- 4 Jesus comes on clouds triumphant  
     when the heav'ns shall pass away.

Jesus comes again in glory;  
 let us, then, our homage pay,  
 Alleluia! ever singing  
 till the dawn of endless day.

Text: Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903, abr., alt.

Text: Public domain

*(Stand)*

In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the  
 Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

## **Confession**

*CW 173*

Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven,  
 whose sins are covered.

**Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count  
 against them.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

**Almighty and merciful Father,**

**we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep.**

**We have followed what we have devised and  
 desired in our hearts.**

**We have offended you and sinned against your  
 holy law.**

**We have done those things that we should not  
 have done,**

**and we have not done those things that we  
 should have done.**

**Have mercy on us, Lord!**

**Spare us, forgive us, and restore us,  
according to your promises in Christ Jesus.**

*(Silence for meditation and reflection)*

God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by his death on the cross and freed us from death by his resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever.

**Amen.**

**Lord, Have Mercy**

CW 174

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.  
**Amen.**

## **Glory to God in the Highest**

CW 176

***Refrain:* Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.**

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. *Refrain*

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer. *Refrain*

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in the glory of God the Father. Amen. Amen.

*Refrain*

## **THE WORD**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

## **Prayer of the Day**

Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way for your only Son. By his coming, give us strength in our conflicts, and shed light on our path through the darkness of this world; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*(Be seated)*

### **First Reading**

*Malachi 3:1–7b*

<sup>1</sup>Look! I am sending my messenger! He will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord, whom you are seeking, will come to his temple! The Messenger of the Covenant, in whom you delight, will surely come, says the LORD of Armies.

<sup>2</sup>But who can endure the day when he comes? Who will remain standing when he appears? For he will be like a refiner's fire, like launderers bleach! <sup>3</sup>He will be seated like a refiner and a purifier of silver. He will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and like silver. They will belong to the LORD and bring him an offering in righteousness.

<sup>4</sup>Judah and Jerusalem's offerings will be pleasing to the LORD as they were in the days of old, in years long ago.

<sup>5</sup>I will approach you to judge you. I will be quick to give testimony against those who practice occult arts, those who commit adultery, those who swear false oaths, those who cheat workers out of their wages, those who wrong a widow and a fatherless child, those who turn away a resident alien—all those who do not fear me, says the LORD of Armies.

<sup>6</sup>Certainly I, the LORD, do not change. That is why you, sons of Jacob, have not come to an end. <sup>7</sup>Since the days of your fathers, you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them.

Return to me, and I will return to you," says the LORD of Armies.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**66 Let All the Earth Sing Out**

*Psalm 66*

***Refrain***

**Let all the earth sing out our Savior's praise, cry out to God with joy.**

Shout for joy to God, / all the earth!

Sing the glory of his name; make his praise / glorious.

Praise our God, all / peoples,

let the sound of his / praise be heard;

he has pre- / served our lives  
and kept our feet from / slipping. *Refrain*

Come and hear, all you who / fear God;  
let me tell you what he has / done for me.  
If I had cherished sin / in my heart,  
the Lord would not have / listened;  
but God has surely / listened  
and has / heard my prayer.

**Glory be to the Father and / to the Son  
and to the Holy / Spirit,  
as it was in the be- / ginning,  
is now, and will be forever. / Amen. *Refrain***

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## Second Reading

*Philippians 1:3–11*

<sup>3</sup>I thank my God every time I remember you. <sup>4</sup>Every time I pray for all of you, I always pray with joy, <sup>5</sup>because of your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now. <sup>6</sup>I am convinced of this very thing: that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. <sup>7</sup>I am equally convinced that it is right for me to think this way about all of you, because I have you in my heart, for both in my chains and in my defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all share in this grace with me. <sup>8</sup>Yes, God is



my witness of how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.

<sup>9</sup>And I pray that your love may still increase more and more in knowledge and every insight. <sup>10</sup>This will result in your approval of the things that really matter, so that you will be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, <sup>11</sup>filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God. (Stand)**

## Gospel Acclamation

Luke 3:4,6



### Refrain



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

### Tone



Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.



And all people will see God's sal - va - tion.

**Gospel***Luke 3:1–6*

<sup>1</sup>In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar— while Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod was tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip was tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias was tetrarch of Abilene— <sup>2</sup>during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John, the son of Zechariah, in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup>He went into the whole region around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>4</sup>Just as it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet:

A voice of one calling in the wilderness,  
 “Prepare the way of the Lord! Make his paths  
 straight.

<sup>5</sup>Every valley will be filled, and every mountain and  
 hill will be made low.

The crooked will become straight, and the rough  
 ways smooth.

<sup>6</sup>And everyone will see the salvation of God.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

*(Be seated)*

### 316 On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

1 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry  
announces that the Lord is nigh;  
come, then, and listen, for he brings  
good news about the King of kings.

2 Then cleansed be ev'ry life from sin  
and furnished for a Guest within,  
and let us all our hearts prepare  
for Christ to come and enter there.

3 We hail you as our Savior, Lord,  
our refuge and our great reward;  
without your grace we waste away  
like flow'rs that wither and decay.

4 Stretch forth your hand, our health restore,  
and lift us up to fall no more;  
O make your face on us to shine,  
and fill the world with love divine.

5 All praise to you, eternal Son,  
whose advent has our freedom won,  
whom with the Father we adore  
and Holy Spirit evermore.

Text: tr. composite; Charles Coffin, 1676–1749

Text: Public domain

### Sermon

Philippians 1:3-11

## A Pastor's Advent Prayer for His People

I. A prayer of thanks (3-7)

II. A prayer for love (8-11)

*(Stand)*

### **Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell.**

**The third day he rose again from the dead.**

**He ascended into heaven**

**and is seated at the right hand of God the  
Father Almighty.**

**From there he will come to judge the living and  
the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,**

**the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*(Be seated)*

## **Prayer of the Church**

## **Offering**

### **317 When All the World Was Cursed**

CW 317

- 1 When all the world was cursed  
by Moses' condemnation,  
Saint John the Baptist came  
with words of consolation.  
With true forerunner's zeal  
the greater one he named,  
and him, as yet unknown,  
as Savior he proclaimed.
- 2 Before Saint John was born,  
he leaped in joyful meeting,  
confessing him as Lord  
whose mother he was greeting.  
By Jordan's rolling stream,  
a new Elijah bold,

he testified of him

whom prophets had foretold.

3 Behold the Lamb of God,  
 who bears the world's transgression,  
 whose sacrifice removes  
 the devil's dread oppression.

Behold the Lamb of God,  
 who takes away our sin,  
 who for our peace and joy  
 will full atonement win.

4 *O grant, dear Lord of love,  
 that we receive, rejoicing,  
 the word proclaimed by John,  
 our true repentance voicing,  
 that gladly we may walk  
 upon our Savior's way  
 until we live with him  
 in his eternal day. (Stand)*

Text: tr. Paul E. Kretzmann, 1883–1965, alt.; Johann G. Olearius, 1635–1711, abr.  
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## **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**

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and † give you peace.

**Amen.**

### **318 Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding**

**CW 318**

1 Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding!

“Christ is near,” we hear it say.

“Cast away the works of darkness,  
 all you children of the day.”

2 See, the Lamb, so long expected,  
 comes with pardon down from heav’n.

Let us haste, with tears of sorrow,  
 one and all, to be forgiv’n;

3 So, when next he comes in glory  
and the world is wrapped in fear,  
he will shield us with his mercy  
and with words of love draw near.

4 Honor, glory, might, dominion  
to the Father and the Son  
with the everlasting Spirit  
while eternal ages run!

Text: tr. Edward Caswall, 1814–1878, alt.; Latin, c. 5th–10th cent.

Text: Public domain

**Acknowledgments**

Setting Two from Christian Worship

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## MESSAGE BOARD

**Church and Fellowship Hall Decorating:** Let's get our glitter on! We get to **decorate today** at noon!!! TIA

**Soup Supper:** Wednesday at 5:30 PM we'll gather for food and fellowship.

**Midweek Advent Service:** On Wednesday at 6:30 PM we have the privilege of gathering in preparation of our Savior's birth.

**Children's Christmas Service:** December 22<sup>nd</sup> 9:00 AM. 'Out of the mouth of babe's'. What a joy to listen to our



children profess their knowledge and faith. Join as they preach the joyous Word of our promised Savior!!!

**Cookie Crunch:** December 22<sup>nd</sup> following the Children's Service.

**Common Cup:** A couple of members had expressed interest in having the common cup back as an option for Holy Communion. If you are interested, please talk to Pastor Arnold or email him at [revmra@gmail.com](mailto:revmra@gmail.com).

**Poinsettia Orders:** Order forms can be found on the radiator by the office.

## HAPPENING SOON

Sunday 12/08	9:00 AM Worship Service
	10:15 AM Sunday School/Bible Class
	11:15 AM Choir Practice
	Noon Christmas Decorating
Monday 12/09	7:00 PM Worship Service
Tuesday 12/10	6:30 PM Church Council
Wednesday 12/11	5:30 PM Soup Supper
	6:30 PM Advent Service
Sunday 12/15	9:00 AM Communion
Worship Service	
Monday 12/16	7:00 PM Communion
	Worship Service

**December Sunday Ushers:** John Solgat, Mike Hecht, Nate Rupprecht, Grant Barnes

Donna G... Phil... Phil...

## EVENT ATTENDANCE

Sunday Service: 89, Communed: 79

Monday Service: 18, Communed: 18

## STEWARDSHIP AT ST. LUKE'S

For 2024, the planned giving needed is \$7,910.00 per week to meet our ministry goals.

**Last Week's Budgetary Offerings: \$23,280.00**

Tuition: \$100.00

Sunday School: \$19.00