

SERVICE OF THE WORD

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 20, 2020



SAINT LUKE CHURCH

WELCOME _____

Prelude: "Lo, how a rose"

Johannes Brahms

Ringling of the Bells

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM _____

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvations.

Amen.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

GATHERING

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Hymn

Savior of the Nations, Come

Savior of the nations, come; virgin's son, make here your home.

Marvel now, O heav'n and earth: God has chosen such a birth.

From God's heart the Savior speeds, back to God his pathway leads;
out to vanquish death's command, back to reign at God's right hand

Praise we sing to Christ the Lord, virgin's son, incarnate Word!

To the holy Trinity praise we sing eternally!

Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that would obstruct your mercy, that willingly we may bear your redeeming love to all the world, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

WORD

First Reading

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

The reading concludes:

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26

Your love, O Lord, forever will I sing;

from age to age my mouth will proclaim your faithfulness.

For I am persuaded that your steadfast love is established forever;

you have set your faithfulness firmly in the heavens.

"I have made a covenant with my chosen one;

I have sworn an oath to David my servant:

'I will establish your line forever,
and preserve your throne for all generations.'"

You spoke once in a vision and said to your faithful people:

"I have set the crown upon a warrior
and have exalted one chosen out of the people.

I have found David my servant;

with my holy oil I have anointed him.

My hand will hold him fast

and my arm will make him strong.

No enemy shall deceive him,

nor shall the wicked bring him down.

I will crush his foes before him

and strike down those who hate him.

My faithfulness and steadfast love are with him,

and he shall be victorious through my name.

I will set his hand on the sea,

and his right hand on the rivers.

He will say to me, 'You are my father,

my God, and the rock of my salvation.'"

Second Reading

Romans 16:25-27

The reading concludes:

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**



HOLY GOSPEL

Light four candles to watch for Messiah, let the light banish darkness.

He shall bring salvation to Israel. God fulfills the promise.

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke, the 1st chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

✠ SAINT LUKE 1:26-38 ✠

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

The angel Gabriel from heaven came, with wings as drifted snow, with eyes as flame:
“All hail to thee, O lowly maiden Mary, most highly favored lady.” Gloria!

“For know a blessed mother thou shalt be, all generations laud and honor thee;
thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold, most highly favored lady.” Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head; “To me be as it pleaseth God,” she said.
“My soul shall laud and magnify God’s holy name.” Most highly favored lady, Gloria!

Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born in Bethlehem all on a Christmas morn,
And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say: “Most highly favored lady.”
Gloria!

Apostle’s Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s 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 to the dead.
on the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God’s creation.

After each petition: Lord, listen to your children cry.

Send us love, send us power, send us grace.

Sharing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Reflections on God’s Grace

“I sing of a maiden”

Patrick Hadley

I sing of maiden That is makeless
King of all kings To her son she ches.
He came all so still Where His mother was,
As dew in April That falleth on the grass.
He came all so still To His mother's bower,
As dew in April That falleth on the flower.
He came all so still Where His mother lay,
As dew in April That falleth on the spray.
Mother and maiden Was never none but she:
Well may such a lady God's mother be.

THANKSGIVING _____

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being. For your Word of life, O God,

we give you thanks and praise.

By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you. For your Word of life, O God,

we give you thanks and praise.

Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love. For your word of life, O God,

we give you thanks and praise.

Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

Amen.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit,
let us pray as Jesus taught us:

Our Father in heaven,

**hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial

and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen**

SENDING _____

Hymn

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

O come, O Wisdom from on high, embracing all things far and nigh:
In strength and beauty come and stay; teach us you will and guide our way. *Refrain*

O come, O Branch of Jesse, free your own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell your people save, and give them vict'ry o'er the grave. *Refrain*

O come, O Key of David, come, and open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery. *Refrain*

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. *Refrain*

Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Prelude: "Grand Choeur"

Cesar Franck

Stephen Bouman, *Preaching Minister*
Timothy Geistlinger, *Assisting Minister*

Lucy Baker, *Cantor*
Don Mead, *Organist*



SAINT LUKE CHURCH

December 20, 2020
The Fourth Sunday of Advent

PRAYER CONNECTION AND REFLECTION

Time to reflect and pray individually as you prepare for worship

THE PRAYER FOR THE DAY

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that would obstruct your mercy, that willingly we may bear your redeeming love to all the world, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

REMEMBER THOSE WHO ARE ILL

O God, the strength of the weak and the comfort of sufferers: Mercifully hear our prayers and grant to your servants:

<i>Eve Scheffler</i>	<i>Maryann Palermo</i>	<i>Peter Burkbart</i>	<i>Steve Mead</i>	<i>Abigail Zbang</i>
<i>Patricia Grunde</i>	<i>Janet Hagberg</i>	<i>Christian Long</i>	<i>David Horne</i>	<i>Dale Peters</i>
<i>Shauna Stiglich</i>	<i>Jan Nyberg</i>	<i>Amyyah Robinson</i>	<i>Rosie Diaz</i>	<i>John Holland</i>
<i>Maryjo McCawley</i>	<i>Neva Geweke</i>	<i>Michael Holman</i>	<i>Linda Planekowsky</i>	<i>Dan Horton</i>
<i>Grace Tampa</i>	<i>Laurie Strohmayr</i>	<i>Donna Karaklasch</i>	<i>Mark Van Scharrel</i>	<i>Martha Kastigar</i>
<i>Rosemarie Morgen</i>	<i>Albester Hall Jones</i>	<i>Ray Wentworth</i>	<i>William A. Jones</i>	<i>Lois Hervai</i>

the help of your power, that illness may be turned into health and our sorrow into joy; through Jesus Christ. Amen

TO LIVE IN GOD'S LIGHT

God Almighty, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Grant us, we pray, to be grounded and settled in your truth as we prepare for the coming of the Light of the World. By your Holy Spirit that which we know not, reveal; that which is wanting in us, fill up; that which we know, confirm; and keep us blameless in your service; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

REMEMBER THOSE SERVING IN THE ARMED FORCES

Almighty God, we commit to your gracious care and keeping all the men and women of our armed forces at home and abroad:

Nicholas Bakulinski *Jeremy Strohmayr* *Dan McCarthy* *Lucas Kratz* *Preston Larson*

Defend them with your heavenly grace and grant them a sense of your abiding presence wherever they may be; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Almighty God, from whom all thoughts of truth and peace proceed, kindle in the hearts of all the true love of peace, and guide with Your pure and peaceable wisdom those who make decisions for the nations of the earth; that in tranquility Your kingdom may go forward, till the earth be filled with the knowledge of your love; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

December 20, 2020



Welcome to Saint Luke

Sunday Services

Saint Luke has temporarily suspended in person services. Services will continue online only. Please pray for our country and the world as we fight this pandemic.

Introduction to the Day

God keeps the promise made to David, to give him an everlasting throne. The angel tells Mary that God will give David's throne to her son Jesus. She is perplexed by Gabriel's greeting and by the news of her coming pregnancy, but she is able still to say, "Count me in." We who know that Jesus is called king only as he is executed still find it a mystery hard to fathom, but with Mary today we hear the news of what God is up to ad say, "Count us in."

Today

On this day, the fourth and final Sunday in Advent, our wait is almost over. The long night is at its darkest, but we know that the dawn of the new order is about to break. Our weeks of preparation have steered us through the course. This is the last lap, the home stretch—and our hearts rise as we catch sight of the finish. Come, Lord Jesus. We are ready!



Christmas Holidays

The **church and school offices** will be closed from December 26 until January 3. The offices will reopen on Monday, January 4, 2021. Though the church office will not formally be open, your calls may still be directed to the church office (773.472.3383, press 1304 to leave

All members are reminded that the books of the congregation will be officially closed December 31, 2020.

Coffee Hour!



You are invited to Coffee Hour after Church this morning beginning at 10:30 a.m. Join the conversation and check up on people from church you haven't seen in a while! Here is the link for Coffee Hour: <https://bit.ly/39xYjVS>
Meeting ID: 948 1158 6701, Passcode: saintluke



CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Sunday Worship is continuing online only. The link for "Online Worship" can be found on the website at stlukechicago.org.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES Thursday, December 24

5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service
led by the children Saint Luke

**The link for this service can be found at stlukechicago.org,
click on "Online Worship"**

Premiering

7:00 p.m. The Christ-Mass - Service of the Holy Night

**The link for this service can be found at stlukechicago.org,
click on "Online Worship"**

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE Friday, December 25

10:30 a.m. Festival Service of Holy Communion

Join Zoom Meeting for Christmas Day:

<https://bit.ly/2KETgJ6>

Meeting ID: 948 6188 3669, Passcode: stluke

FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS Sunday, December 27

9:00 a.m. Service of the Word

Join Zoom meeting for First Sunday of Christmas

<https://bit.ly/3r92TAv>

Meeting ID: 960 5161 1085, Passcode: stluke

Memorial Thanks

David Johnston made a donation to Saint Luke Church in memory of his father, Kenneth Johnston, on the 20th anniversary of his death. Many thanks for this gift given to the glory of God and in memory of a loved one.

Bible Class

Bible Class **will not** meet during the Holiday break: Thursday, December 24 Thursday, December 31. Bible Class will resume on Thursday, January 7, 2021.



THE CHRISTMAS CHANCEL

There is still time to order a poinsettia for the Chancel of Saint Luke. Please call the church office (773.472.3383) on Monday morning to place your order.

Save the Date

Pastor Bouman will host a virtual book signing on Sunday, January 17, 2021 to introduce his new book "They Are Us, Second Edition: Lutherans and Immigration" Mark your calendar now for this event!

Caring and Sharing

During December we are collecting **hats, gloves and socks** to be distributed by Lakeview Pantry. Remember those who have little to keep them warm during our bitter winters; put your donation in the collection barrel in the lobby.

eGiving



Christmas time has come again. And what a remarkable year it has been. We've seen church families band together to help each other and support our congregation with time, talent and financial contributions. But greater seasonal participation is always welcome. Since we can't gather in person to celebrate and worship this year, Saint Luke Church encourages you to use our eGiving tools to make your Christmas offering.

During the holiday season, we extend a warm welcome to all the families and friends of Saint Luke, and to all guests joining us virtually.

To learn more, visit our church website at stlukechicago.org. We thank you for supporting our mission this Christmas season!

The Freedom of a Christian

Amid the pandemic of COVID-19 and the ongoing pandemic of racism and xenophobia, our communities and world are ravaged by illness, death and injustice. We are tempted to turn inward in despair. Five hundred years ago, Martin Luther wrote a treatise titled ***The Freedom of a Christian***. In it, he offered his most compelling summary of the Christian life: In Christ we are completely free and at the same time completely bound in love and service to our neighbors. The Lakeview Lutheran Parish (LLP) is sponsoring a study of *The Freedom of the Christian* on Wednesday mornings 10:00 – 11:00 am continuing December 23. Join via zoom: <https://bit.ly/3luvyJm>. Meeting ID: 987 432 464. Password: 029091. Call-in: 312.626.6799. Watch a brief video from Bishop Eaton, download the study guide and a free copy of the *Freedom of the Christian* at elca500.org.

Regular Support for Saint Luke

The **2021 Offering Envelopes** are available! To pick your envelopes up in person, please call the church office (773.472.3383) to set up a pick-up time and your envelopes will be brought to you.

All envelopes not picked up by December 23rd will be mailed. Please help us save the cost of mailing your envelopes by picking them up, if possible.

Thank you for your help with this vital area of Church Stewardship.

If you don't have offering envelopes and would like a box, please let the church office know. Envelopes for 2021 will be on their way to you!

Christmas Eucharist Instructions

We would like to celebrate the **Eucharist together on Christmas Day**. We have been having several conversations about this, especially at the coffee hours on Sunday. What I am proposing has come out of those conversations and represents the wisdom of our conversations and my best instincts as a pastor. Even though some of us have been able to receive the eucharist in person, most of us have been fasting from the sacrament since last March. Remembering that the Reformation was primarily a pastoral care movement to restore access to the Gospel to the people, in time of ongoing pandemic, I would like to offer the Holy Eucharist to all of our members, wherever you are worshipping. We can do this in two ways, and you are welcome to partake in either of them.

Some have indicated that they would be most comfortable receiving a consecrated host and then partaking of the Body of Christ at the appropriate time in the liturgy. I will consecrate these hosts this coming Sunday at our Advent 4 liturgy at 9am. This will be a zoom gathering and we will all be together, see one another, pray together. The consecrated hosts from the liturgy will be distributed during the week for your reception when we gather for the Christ Mass on Christmas Day in a zoom liturgy. We have volunteers eager to deliver the consecrated hosts to your home.

Please reserve your communion hosts by calling the church office 773.472.3383 or emailing the office (estampfl@stlukechicago.org), and sharing your contact information.

This is the usual practice of sharing the eucharist for those who are not able to be at the assembly.

We are also offering the opportunity to receive the eucharist together through virtual consecration. You can place bread (we will share the recipe Jean Linsner uses to make the bread we use on Sundays-or you can use any bread you have) and wine on your table. When I take bread and wine at the altar and speak the words of institution you may lift up your bread and wine at home-or your consecrated host. We will all speak together the words of invitation: "The body of Christ for you-The blood of Christ for you" and be reminded that we are receiving this precious gift of life in the midst of the assembly, not just communing ourselves.

I want to invite you to join in this virtual communion, but also to refrain if you are not comfortable with this. I will also speak a blessing for those who do not receive: "May the presence of Jesus be with you always."

I am inviting us to trust the Holy Spirit. God has left us with these sacraments of earthly elements of water, bread, wine, because God wants to be with us, touch us, work faith in us by the Holy Spirit. Virtual communion will not be our new normal. On Feast days such as Christmas Day, Epiphany, and Saint Luke anniversary on January 24 we will share in this holy meal.

It is our hope and prayer that we can return to in-person worship on our anniversary day. We will worship at our traditional 8:30 and 10:30 times, with the Voter's meeting at 9:30 between the services. And we want to make the consecrated host available to everyone each time we celebrate the eucharist when we return to in-person worship.

Communion Bread Recipe

This recipe takes approximately 30 minutes from start to finish and makes four round loaves (6-7 inches in diameter) and a priest host.

Preheat oven to 350°

Ingredients

1 1/2 cups whole wheat flour
1/2 cup white flour
3/4 teaspoon baking soda
1/4 teaspoon salt
2 heaping teaspoons vegetable oil (yes, that's the direction!)
3 tablespoons honey or molasses, or combo (I use 2T molasses & 1T honey)
3/4 cups cold water

Tools

Mixing bowl	Measuring cups
Measuring spoons	Wooden spoon
Pizza cutter	Rolling pin
Baking pan	

Directions

Mix

1. Measure dry ingredients into mixing bowl and stir to combine.
2. Measure water, oil, and honey/molasses. Mix together.
3. Bring wet & dry ingredients together. It will look very rough.

Knead

4. Turn out mixture onto lightly floured board and knead about 1/2 minute until it comes together. The rough mixture will transform into a smooth, uniformly colored ball of dough. Add a bit of flour if the dough feels too sticky

Form

5. Cut dough ball into 4 equal pieces.
6. If making Priest Host: Pinch off a small marble-sized knob of dough from each of the 4 pieces; combine to form one larger ball and roll out to about a 2-3 inch round. Set aside. (I do this because I like the idea that the

priest host is formed from the loaves that will be fed to the congregation.)

7. On a lightly floured surface, roll out one of the 4 balls of dough into a round approximately 6-7 inches in diameter and no more than 1/3 inch thick
8. Transfer the round to the baking pan. Continue to roll out remaining three dough balls and transfer to pan.

Score

9. Using the pizza cutter, score the dough rounds, creating a grid pattern. Each "square" should be about 1/2 an inch. Don't be afraid to cut down to the baking pan when you are scoring the dough.
10. Place the priest host among the 4 scored rounds.

Bake

11. Bake the communion bread at 350° for about 9-10 minutes.
12. Cool completely. Use that morning or wrap well and freeze

Notes:

1. I use King Arthur whole wheat flour. It seems to work best.
2. After measuring the oil, drip a couple of drops of oil onto the honey/molasses measuring spoon to ensure a complete release of the honey/molasses.
3. Weather impacts how the dough behaves, so some days, you will find yourself adding more flour during the kneading/rolling phase.
4. Scoring the dough makes dividing of the bread for distribution much easier and neater.
The squares will be less likely to fall apart before you want them to, if you allow the bread to cool for a couple of minutes on the baking pan before transferring to a cooling rack.

Call Committee

Saint Luke Ministries is engaged in the work of calling a new pastor. A call committee is being created as part of this process. The call committee receives candidates recommended by the Synodical Bishop. The call committee will evaluate and recommend the candidate it believes God desires this congregation to have as its pastor. After this recommendation is made, the Ministry Board will call a special meeting of the Voter's Assembly. The call to the new pastor can only be made by the Voter's Assembly.

The congregation will have opportunities to meet the recommended candidate before the meeting of the Voter's Assembly.

Serving on the call committee will require a significant commitment of time, both for meetings and for prayerful discernment. If you would like to serve on the call committee, please complete the form below. You will be contacted by the nominating committee (Betsy Wassilak, Paul Heltne, Mark Godecke, and David Nelson). Positions on the call committee are limited, and we will strive to create a committee that represents the entire congregation. We greatly appreciate the desire to serve expressed by all applicants. The names of the call committee members will be announced at the congregational meeting on January 24, 2021.

Call Committee Application

You must be a member of Saint Luke in order to apply. It is not mandatory that you are a voting member.

Name: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____ Phone Number: _____

Description of background experience, education or qualifications you see as helpful to the committee.

A brief statement of primary goals and priorities you see when conducting a search for the new pastor.

Why do you choose Saint Luke as your faith home?

Why would you like to be a member of the Call Committee?

Please return this application to the Church Office.

FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY

Sunday, January 3

9:00 a.m. Festival Service of Holy Communion

<https://bit.ly/3r92TAy>

Meeting ID: 960 5161 1085

Passcode: stluke