



# St. Luke's Lutheran Church



4801 Anderson Ave  
Manhattan, KS 66503  
[www.stlukesmanhattan.org](http://www.stlukesmanhattan.org)

*Sharing Jesus Christ's love with those around us.*

**Sunday, December 20, 2020 – 11:00 AM**

*Rev. Michael J. Schmidt, Sr. Pastor  
Charity Smith, Director of Christian Education  
Rev. King Crawford, Campus Ministry  
Gretchen Hartsook, Director of Music  
Betsy Molinary, Director of Early Learning Center  
Tracie Hudson, Assistant Director*

**FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT**

**(Series B)**

## WELCOME

We are glad you are here to worship our Savior with us. Please remember to turn your cell phone to silence. Restrooms are on the west side of the sanctuary. Prayer requests can be submitted to the church office through email, [office@stlukesmanhattan.org](mailto:office@stlukesmanhattan.org), or by calling 785-539-2604. On Communion Sundays, if you need non-gluten wafers at communion, or need to have communion brought to you, please notify the elder who is serving. **In accordance with city ordinance #7488, masks are to be worn whenever you are in the church building.** (*Exceptions are made for individuals who have a medical condition, verified by a doctor, for which wearing a face covering is not advisable.*) We hope you will join us again so that you may experience Jesus.

## AS WE GATHER

We stand at the threshold not only of an old and familiar story but also that of an old yet familiar mystery, the greatest mystery ever told. It doesn't appear on any list of greatest novels or plays written by earthly authors. It is the mystery of God. More specifically, it is the mystery of His love for the salvation of the world. But as we prepare to review the mystery of God—the Son of God becoming incarnate in our human flesh and born of the Virgin Mary—the greater mystery is that He, Jesus, looks over your shoulder now in the retelling and hearing of Christmas. The greater mystery is that you not only know the old, familiar story but also that you believe it. And believing brings about the best mystery of all—that your sins are forgiven, that you have a new, eternal life, that you are forever a child, a son, a daughter born of God. The Gospel—the wisdom and mystery of God—is no longer a secret. For it is told by your own mouth singing of God's love and salvation in Jesus Christ.

## **IMAGE ON THE COVER**

Now to Him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen. *Romans 16:25–27*

## **PRELUDE**

*(Please use this time to prayerfully prepare your hearts to enter into the presence of Jesus.)*

# **✠A SERVICE OF WORSHIP AND PRAISE✠**

## **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **LIGHTING OF CANDLES (INCLUDING ADVENT WREATH)**

*Stand*

## **PRESERVICE SONG - "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear"**

- 1           It came upon a midnight clear, that glorious song of old  
              From angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold  
              "Peace on the earth, goodwill to men from heav'n's all gracious  
              King!"  
              The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing
  
- 2           Still through the cloven skies they come with peaceful wings  
              unfurled  
              And still their heavenly music floats o'er all the weary world  
              Above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hovering wing  
              And ever o'er its babel sounds the blessed angels sing
  
- 3           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 shall to the earth God's ancient promise bring  
              And all who take this gift will hear the song of angels sing  
              (Text: Edmund H. Sears, Music: Richard S. Willis, public domain #288089)

*The sign of the cross ✠ may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

## **INVOCATION**

- P**    In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C**    Amen.

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- P** That our eyes and our ears may be open to receive the mystery of God's love, let us first empty ourselves of everything that has closed our hearts to God, confessing our sin and need of forgiveness and life.
- C** **At the Lord's own invitation and command, I confess all my sins to God, the very thoughts, words, and deeds with which I have offended Him and hurt my neighbor. I come now in the sincere hope and faith of the forgiveness of God made known to the whole world in the mystery of His Son, Jesus Christ, who has sacrificed His own flesh and blood for me. Remove my sin and guilt for His sake, and restore a right spirit within me. Amen.**
- P** Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to all of you. And in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**
- P** Let us pray.

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come. Strengthen Your gift of faith in us, and keep us by Your power to be Your own; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

- C** **Amen.**

## **NICENE CREED**

**☉ I believe in one God,  
the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth  
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered and was buried.  
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures  
and ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of the Father.  
And He will come again with glory to judge both  
the living and the dead,  
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son together  
is worshiped and glorified,  
who spoke by the prophets.**

**And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.**

Sit

**OPENING SONG - "Mary Did You Know"**

- 1 Mary, did you know that your baby boy  
Would one day walk on water?  
Mary, did you know that your baby boy  
Would save our sons and daughters?  
Did you know that your baby boy has come to make you new?  
This child that you delivered will soon deliver you
  
- 2 Mary, did you know that your baby boy  
Will give sight to a blind man?  
Mary, did you know that your baby boy  
Will calm a storm with His hand?  
Did you know that your baby boy has walked where angels trod?  
When you kiss your little baby you kiss the face of God  
Mary did you know?
  
- 3 The blind will see, the deaf will hear  
The dead will live again  
The lame will leap, the dumb will speak  
The praises of the Lamb
  
- 4 Mary, did you know that your baby boy  
Is Lord of all creation?  
Mary did you know that your baby boy  
Will one day rule the nations?  
Did you know that your baby boy was heaven's perfect Lamb?  
The sleeping child you're holding is the Great I Am

## OLD TESTAMENT READING

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

*(The Lord's covenant with David.)*

<sup>1</sup>Now when the king lived in his house and the LORD had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies, <sup>2</sup>the king said to Nathan the prophet, "See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent." <sup>3</sup>And Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that is in your heart, for the LORD is with you."

<sup>4</sup>But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, <sup>5</sup>"Go and tell my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD: Would you build me a house to dwell in? <sup>6</sup>I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent for my dwelling. <sup>7</sup>In all places where I have moved with all the people of Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?"' <sup>8</sup>Now, therefore, thus you shall say to my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel. <sup>9</sup>And I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. <sup>10</sup>And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, <sup>11</sup>from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. . . .

<sup>16</sup>And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.'"

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## GRADUAL

*Zechariah 9:9; Psalm 118:26*

- P** Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion.  
**C** Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem.

- P** Behold, your king is coming to you;  
**C** righteous and having salvation.

- P** Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.  
**C** From the house of the Lord we bless You.

## EPISTLE

*Romans 16:25-27*

*(Doxology)*

<sup>25</sup>Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages <sup>26</sup>but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith— <sup>27</sup>to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.

- L** This is the Word of the Lord.  
**C** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

## ALLELUIA & VERSE

*Matthew 1:23a*

- P** Alleluia. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
**C** and they shall call His name Immanuel. Alleluia.

## HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 1:26-38

*(The birth of Jesus foretold.)*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the first chapter.

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

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" <sup>29</sup>But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, <sup>33</sup>and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

<sup>34</sup>And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

<sup>35</sup>And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. <sup>36</sup>And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. <sup>37</sup>For nothing will be impossible with God." <sup>38</sup>And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

*Sit*

## LAMB'S MESSAGE

## SERMON

## VOTUM

- P** The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.
- C** Amen.

## OFFERING

There are several ways to give.

1. **Offering plates** are available in the narthex as you exit.
2. Please **send** your offerings to  
St. Luke's Lutheran Church  
4801 Anderson Avenue  
Manhattan, KS 66503
3. Give through our **website**:  
<https://stlukesmanhattan.org/about-us/financial-support/>
4. **Electronic Funds Transfer** - Sign up through the church office.

**STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE: 2 Samuel 7:4 – “But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan. . .”** Nathan thought David's idea was great, so he blessed it with the Lord's name. But, later that night, the Word of the Lord set him straight. The Word of the Lord must be the basis for what we think, say, and do in God's Kingdom – not our own desires or whims.

*Stand*

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- P** Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Almighty God, as we draw closer to the grand celebration of the incarnation and birth of Your beloved Son, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, we thank You for making known the mystery of Your love from the very first promise to Adam and Eve, through the continued witness of the holy prophets, apostles, and evangelists, and finally through Your living voice through the ministers of Your Church to this day. Grant that Your living Word ever call us and all sinners to repentance and faith in Your only-begotten Son. Lord, in Your mercy,

- C** **hear our prayer.**

- P** Keep all You have called to preach and teach and care for Your people in true faith, guard them against the attacks of the evil one, and give them health and joy in their ministry. Lord, in Your mercy,

- C** **hear our prayer.**

- P** Send Your Spirit over the whole world that those who lead in the authority of government acknowledge Your laws and will, making for times of peace that we may live faithfully in safety. Lord, in Your mercy,

- C** **hear our prayer.**

- P** By Your Holy Word and Sacrament, strengthen us to obedient living. Send Your grace, mercy, peace, and love to surround our families, inspire those of various vocations in the world, comfort, defend, and heal all those in times of illness or distress. Lord, in Your mercy,

- C** **hear our prayer.**

*Individual petitions may be added here.*

- P** By the mystery of our Lord's incarnation, His life of obedient faith, and His substitutionary death on the cross, establish us in the one true faith, and strengthen us in lives obedient to Your holy will. Lord, in Your mercy,

- C** **hear our prayer.**

- P** Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C** Amen.

## ✠ SACRAMENT ✠

### PREFACE

- 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 Him thanks and praise.

### LORD'S PRAYER

- P** Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:
- 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.

## THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

**P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

### **The Lord's Supper**

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust in His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes.

Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the Sacrament, are asked first to speak with the Pastor or an elder. For further study, see Matt. 5:23ff; 10:32ff; 18:15-35; 26:26-29; 1 Cor. 11:17-34.

## DISTRIBUTION

*The pastor and those who assist him will receive the body and blood of Christ first. They will then distribute the elements to those in the pews who are unable to come forward, and then finally to those who come forward.*

*During the COVID-19 regulations, continuous communion will be practiced. Please maintain Social Distancing while waiting in line to receive communion.*

## DISTRIBUTION SONGS

### “We Are the Reason”

- 1           As little children we would dream of Christmas morn  
              And all the gifts and toys we knew we’d find  
              But we never realized a baby born one blessed night  
              Gave us the greatest gift of our lives
  
- 2, 4, 6       We are the reason that He gave His life  
              We are the reason that He suffered and died  
              To a world that was lost He gave all He could give  
              To show us a reason to live
  
- 3           As the years went by we learned more about gifts  
              And giving of ourselves and what that means  
              On a dark and cloudy day a man hung crying in the rain  
              Because of love, because of love
  
- 5           I finally found a reason for living  
              It’s in giving every part of my heart to Him  
              In all that I do, every word that I say  
              I’ll be giving my heart just for Him, for Him
  
- 7           He is my reason to live

(David Meece ©1986 World Inc.)

## “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

- 1 O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light  
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight
- 2 How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is giv'n  
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heav'n  
No ear may hear His coming, but in this world of sin  
Where meek souls will receive Him still the dear Christ enters in
- 3 O holy Child of Bethlehem descend on 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 Emmanuel

(Phillips Brooks & Lewis H. Redner arr. ©1997 Maranatha! Music used by permission CCLI #288089)

### **DISMISSAL**

**P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ✠ in peace.

**C** Amen.

*Stand*

## POST COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

**P** Let us pray.

O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## BENEDICTION

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

**C** Amen.

## CLOSING SONG - "Angels We Have Heard on High"

- 1 Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains  
And the mountains in reply echo back their joyous strains  
Gloria in excelsis Deo, gloria in excelsis Deo
- 2 Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heav'nly song?  
Gloria in excelsis Deo, gloria in excelsis Deo
- 3 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

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book

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