



**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, November 26, 2023 – 11:00 AM**

*Rev. Michael J. Schmidt, Sr. Pastor  
Gretchen Hartsook, Director of Music*

**LAST SUNDAY OF THE CHURCH YEAR**

**(Series A)**

## **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. We hope you will join us again so that you may experience Jesus.

## **AS WE GATHER**

Preparing for Christ's return means loving the people around us. Today's Readings reveal that also means living the orthodox life today. *Orthodox* means "right glory," and today we glorify God for sending His Son, David's descendant, to fulfill the promise in Ezekiel and to care so deeply for us that He died for us. In essence His cross was His throne, loving us to death. We dare not wait to share that news, for Christ has already risen, Paul reminds in the Epistle. Right now the end time in which we live has multiple opportunities to share God's love. In the Gospel, Jesus explains that means caring for the "least of these My brothers" (Matthew 25:40) in their hunger, poverty, and even separation from society. Why? Because the Kingdom has already been graciously prepared for us. Today's Readings encourage us to give God "right glory" by sharing His love.

## **IMAGE ON THE COVER**

Oh come, let us sing to the LORD;

let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

Let us come into His presence with thanksgiving;

let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise! *Psalms 95:1–*

## **PRELUDE**

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

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

## WELCOME

### PRESERVICE SONG - "Hark the Herald Angels Sing"

- 1 Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King;  
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;  
With angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"  
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."
- 2 Christ, by highest heav'n adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord  
Late in time behold Him come, offspring of a virgin's womb  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail th'incarnate Deity  
Pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel  
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."
- 3 Hail the heav'n born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness  
Light and life to all He brings, ris'n with healing in His wings  
Mild He lays His glory by, born that man no more may die  
Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth  
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

(Charles Wesley & Felix Mendelsohn arr. ©1997 Maranatha! Music CCLI #288089)

### *Stand*

*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** Let us confess our unworthiness and ask His grace and mercy.

Through Ezekiel, God said that He would “search for My sheep and will seek them out.”

**C** **We confess that we have wandered away as erring sheep, preferring the pleasures of this world rather than the rich pastures You have provided. Forgive us, O Lord.**

**P** Paul wrote that “God has put all things in subjection under [Christ’s] feet.”

**C** **We confess that we have not always been loyal subjects of our Lord, but have made decisions based on our own thoughts and desires. Forgive us, O Lord.**

**P** Jesus foretold that He will judge people about how they treated others—the hungry, strangers, and prisoners.

**C** **We confess that we have not always sought to share Your love and meet the needs of the people around us. We cannot change without Your grace, mercy, and strength. Forgive us, O Lord.**

**P** Rejoice! The One who comes to judge is the same Jesus who is the one who gave His body and shed His blood for you on the cross. He is the first to rise from death, and by His grace we shall follow Him to His eternal kingdom. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore 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.

Gracious God, move us to reflect Your love for us in all that we say and do,

**C** so that Your light shines through us each day until Your Son returns to usher us into Your eternal kingdom;

**P** through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## APOSTLES' CREED

**P** We confess our faith together, using the words of the Apostles' Creed,

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

And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
From thence 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.

## OPENING SONG – “God is With Us”

- 1           The skies don't seem to be as dark as usual  
The stars seem brighter than they've been before  
Deep within I feel my soul a stirring  
As though my hope has been restored  
The shepherds say they've heard the voice of angels  
Confirming rumors spread across the land  
That a child protected well from Herod's anger  
Is our Father's Son, and the Son of man
- 2, 4, 5       Love is raining down on the world tonight  
There's a presence here I can tell  
God is in us, God is for us, God is with us, Emmanuel  
He's the Savior we have been praying for  
In our humble hearts He will dwell  
God is in us, God is for us, God is with us, Emmanuel
- 3           I feel compelled to tell all who will listen  
That peace on earth is not so out of reach  
If we can find grace and mercy and forgiveness  
He has come to save, He is all of these
- 6           God is in us, God is for us, God is with us, Emmanuel  
(Casting Crowns Used by permission CCLI #288089)

## OLD TESTAMENT READING

*Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24*

*(God will shepherd His people Himself.)*

<sup>11</sup>“For thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out. <sup>12</sup>As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his sheep that have been scattered, so will I seek out my sheep, and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. <sup>13</sup>And I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land. And I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the ravines, and in all the inhabited places of the country. <sup>14</sup>I will feed them with good pasture, and on the mountain heights of Israel shall be their grazing land. There they shall lie down in good grazing land, and on rich pasture they shall feed on the mountains of Israel. <sup>15</sup>I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I myself will make them lie down, declares the Lord GOD. <sup>16</sup>I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them in justice. . . .

<sup>20</sup>“Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: Behold, I, I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. <sup>21</sup>Because you push with side and shoulder, and thrust at all the weak with your horns, till you have scattered them abroad, <sup>22</sup>I will rescue my flock; they shall no longer be a prey. And I will judge between sheep and sheep. <sup>23</sup>And I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. <sup>24</sup>And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them. I am the LORD; I have spoken.”

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

## PSALM

*Psalm 95:1-7a; antiphon: v. 7a*

**L** <sup>7</sup>For he is our God,

**C** and we are the people of his pasture,  
and the sheep of his hand.

**L** <sup>1</sup>Oh come, let us sing to the LORD;  
**C**     **let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!**

**L** <sup>2</sup>Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;  
**C**     **let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!**

**L** <sup>3</sup>For the LORD is a great God,  
**C**     **and a great King above all gods.**

**L** <sup>4</sup>In his hand are the depths of the earth;  
**C**     **the heights of the mountains are his also.**

**L** <sup>5</sup>The sea is his, for he made it,  
**C**     **and his hands formed the dry land.**

**L** <sup>6</sup>Oh come, let us worship and bow down;  
**C**     **let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!**

**L** <sup>7</sup>For he is our God,  
**C**     **and we are the people of his pasture,**  
      **and the sheep of his hand.**

**C**     **Glory be to the Father and to the Son**  
      **and to the Holy Spirit;**  
      **as it was in the beginning,**  
      **is now, and will be forever. Amen**

**L** <sup>7</sup>For he is our God,  
**C**     **and we are the people of his pasture,**  
      **and the sheep of his hand.**



## EPISTLE

*1 Corinthians 15:20-28*

*(Christ is the first to rise from death; death will be destroyed.)*

<sup>20</sup>But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. <sup>21</sup>For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. <sup>22</sup>For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. <sup>23</sup>But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. <sup>24</sup>Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. <sup>25</sup>For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. <sup>26</sup>The last enemy to be destroyed is death. <sup>27</sup>For "God has put all things in subjection under his feet." But when it says, "all things are put in subjection," it is plain that he is excepted who put all things in subjection under him. <sup>28</sup>When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to him who put all things in subjection under him, that God may be all in all.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

## ALLELUIA AND VERSE

*Revelation 22:13*

**P** Alleluia. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last

**C** the beginning and the end. Alleluia.

## HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 25:31-46

*(The Christian life involves loving the people around us.)*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.

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

<sup>31</sup>[Jesus said:] *“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. <sup>32</sup>Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. <sup>33</sup>And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. <sup>34</sup>Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. <sup>35</sup>For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, <sup>36</sup>I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.’ <sup>37</sup>Then the righteous will answer him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? <sup>38</sup>And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? <sup>39</sup>And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?’ <sup>40</sup>And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.’*

<sup>41</sup>*“Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. <sup>42</sup>For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, <sup>43</sup>I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ <sup>44</sup>Then they also will answer, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?’ <sup>45</sup>Then he will answer them, saying, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’ <sup>46</sup>And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”*

**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. **A basket** is 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/>

**Electronic Funds Transfer - Sign up through the church office.**

**STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE:** Matthew 25:44 – “Then they also will answer, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?’” With this parable Jesus once again emphasizes that our good works come from who we are, not the other way around. Sheep do sheep works, and goats do goat works. So first things first: if we want to live more faithfully, let us come to Jesus, receive His gifts and ask Him to increase our faith!

## OFFERTORY - "The First Noel"

- 1 The first Noel, the angel did say  
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay  
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep  
On a cold winter's night that was so deep
- 2, 4, 6, 7 Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel  
Born is the King of Israel
- 3 They looked up and saw a star  
Shining in the east, beyond them far  
And to the earth it gave great light  
And so it continued both day and night
- 5 Then let us all in one accord  
Sing praises to our heav'nly Lord  
That hath made heav'n and earth of naught  
And with His blood mankind hath bought
- (Traditional English Carol arr. ©1997 Maranatha! Music CCLI #288089)

*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.

Lord God, You gather Your people from all nations and bring them into Your one, holy Christian and apostolic flock. Strengthen them by Your grace, that they may gladly feast upon Your riches in Your Means of Grace and declare Your praises to all who will hear. Lord, in Your mercy,

- C** hear our prayer.

**P** Almighty God, You judge between Your sheep, and You shepherd Your people with Your Holy Word. Encourage Your pastors. Through their faithful service, continue to seek the lost, bring back the strayed, bind up the injured and strengthen the weak. Lord, in Your mercy,

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

**P** Heavenly Father, You have subjected all things under Your Son, who gladly subjects Himself to You. Bless the homes of Your people, that parents may train and catechize their children with wisdom and love, and that children may gladly submit and honor their father and mother. Lord, in Your mercy,

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

**P** O Lord of lords, You sustain every rule, authority and power as You see fit, until this world's powers should pass away. Bless all in civil authority, that they would not provoke Your wrath but maintain order and justice for the peace of Your people. Lord, in Your mercy,

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

**P** Father in heaven, we look forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness, while now we contend with a multitude of afflictions under the curse of sin. Remember those in need of help and healing [*including* \_\_\_\_\_]. Preserve them, deliver them from their transgressions and hold not Your peace at their tears. Lord, in Your mercy,

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

**P** God of grace, as death came by a man, so by Your Son has come the resurrection of the dead. Endow Your people with penitent hearts at Your table, that they would receive in Your risen Son's body and blood a foretaste of the eternal feast to come. Lord, in Your mercy,

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

**P** God of life, Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. We give thanks to You for those You have gathered into Your kingdom and who are asleep in Him. Strengthen our conviction that death is defeated as we look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Lord, in Your mercy,

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

**P** Almighty God, You have prepared Your kingdom for us from the foundation of the world. Preserve us in faith and love throughout our days, that we may care for Your servants and our neighbors with compassion and joy, looking toward that day when the Son of Man comes in His glory; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

## **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.**

## 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.

## GREET ONE ANOTHER

*We greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, "The Lord be with you," "Peace be with you," or "The peace of the Lord be with you".*

## CLOSING SONG - "Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee" Isaiah 49:3

- 1 Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee  
God of glory, Lord of love  
Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee  
Opening to the sun above  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness  
Drive the dark of doubt away  
Giver of immortal gladness  
Fill us with the light of day
- 2 All Thy works with joy surround Thee  
Earth and heaven reflect Thy rays  
Stars and angels sing around Thee  
Center of unbroken praise  
Field and forest, vale and mountain  
Flowery meadow, flashing sea  
Chanting bird and flowing fountain  
Call us to rejoice in Thee

3    Thou art giving and forgiving  
      Ever blessing, ever blest  
      Wellspring of the joy of living  
      Ocean depth of happy rest  
      Thou our Father, Christ our Brother  
      All who live in love are Thine  
      Teach us how to love each other  
      Lift us to the joy divine  
      Teach us how to love each other  
      Lift us to the joy divine

(Henry Van Dyke & Ludwig Van Beethoven, arr. ©1997 Maranatha! Music CCLI #288089)

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

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Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book

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