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St. Luke’s Gondola Point

Morning Prayer Service

Christmas - December 24 / 25, 2020

[Un-bolded words are said by one, **Bolded words** can be said by all.]

**PENITENTIAL RITE**

Jesus said, “I am the light of the world; whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” *John 8.12*

Dear friends in Christ, as we prepare to worship almighty God, let us with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, that we may obtain forgiveness by his infinite goodness and mercy.

Silence is kept.

**Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us, that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name. Amen.**

Almighty God have mercy upon us, pardon and deliver us from all our sins, confirm and strengthen us in all goodness, and keep us in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES**

[**Video can be found on our St. Luke’s Website Blog.**]

**THE CHRIST CANDLE**

**Child:** This is the last time this year we will light the Advent candles. (*Child lights the four candles*).

**Adult:** For four weeks the candles have been burning as we thought about hope, peace, joy, and love. These are the gifts which Jesus brought to us at Christmas time. The waiting is over and Jesus is born.

**Child:** Each week another candle glowed, and our wreath shone more brightly. Today we light our white candle, the candle which represents Jesus. It is the centre of our wreath, just as Jesus is the centre of our lives. Happy Birthday Jesus! (*Child lights the Christ candle*).

**Congregation:**  God, our hearts sing with joy and praise because of Jesus. At this happy season, we rejoice that Jesus came among us. By His birth and life He has shown us that we are your people, and that we are greatly loved. Help us to remember Christmas all year long, by giving to others the gifts of life; hope, peace, joy, love, kindness and understanding. Amen.

Opening Hymn: *Hope Is A Star (All Verses)*

Hymn: *O Come All Ye Faithful* (CP #118)

**MORNING PRAYER**

Blessed are you, O Christ, Son of God,

you were before time began

and came into the world to save us.

Blessed are you, Sun of righteousness;

you shine with the Father’s love

and illumine the whole universe.

Blessed are you, Son of Mary;

born a child, you shared our humanity.

**Let heaven and earth shout their praise.**

Blessed are you, Son of David;

born to rule,

you received gifts from the wise men.

Blessed are you, Son of Man;

baptized by John,

you saved us from ourselves.

Blessed are you, heavenly King;

teaching and preaching, healing and comforting,

you proclaimed the kingdom.

**Let heaven and earth shout their praise.**

With all the voices of heaven

we celebrate the coming of our Saviour.

**Let heaven and earth shout their praise.**

With all the creatures on earth

we sing and dance at his birth.

**Praise and honour and glory to you, O Lord most high.**

To us a child is born: **O come, let us worship.**

***Jubilate*** *Psalm 100*

Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands; \*

**serve the Lord with gladness and come before his presence with a song.**

Know this: The Lord himself is God; \*

**he himself has made us, and we are his; we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.**

Enter his gates with thanksgiving; go into his courts with praise; \*

**give thanks to him and call upon his name.**

For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; \*

**and his faithfulness endures from age to age.**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: **as it was in the beginning, is now and will be for ever. Amen.**

To us a child is born: **O come, let us worship.**

**PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD**

A Reading from the book of Isaiah 9:2-7.

*The people who walked in darkness*

*have seen a great light;*

*those who lived in a land of deep darkness—*

*on them light has shined.*

*3 You have multiplied the nation,*

*you have increased its joy;*

*they rejoice before you*

*as with joy at the harvest,*

*as people exult when dividing plunder.*

*4 For the yoke of their burden,*

*and the bar across their shoulders,*

*the rod of their oppressor,*

*you have broken as on the day of Midian.*

*5 For all the boots of the tramping warriors*

*and all the garments rolled in blood*

*shall be burned as fuel for the fire.*

*6 For a child has been born for us,*

*a son given to us;*

*authority rests upon his shoulders;*

*and he is named*

*Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,*

*Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

*7 His authority shall grow continually,*

*and there shall be endless peace*

*for the throne of David and his kingdom.*

*He will establish and uphold it*

*with justice and with righteousness*

*from this time onward and forevermore.*

*The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.*

The Word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 96

Sing to the Lord a new song; \*

**sing to the Lord, all the whole earth.**

Sing to the Lord and bless his name; \*

**proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.**

Declare his glory among the nations \*

**and his wonders among all peoples.**

For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; \*

**he is more to be feared than all gods.**

As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; \*

**but it is the Lord who made the heavens.**

Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence! \*

**Oh, the power and the splendour of his sanctuary!**

Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples; \*

**ascribe to the Lord honour and power.**

Ascribe to the Lord the honour due his name; \*

**bring offerings and come into his courts.**

Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; \*

**let the whole earth tremble before him.**

Tell it out among the nations: “The Lord is king! \*

**he has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved;**

**he will judge the peoples with equity.”**

Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;

let the sea thunder and all that is in it; \*

**let the field be joyful and all that is therein.**

Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy

before the Lord when he comes, \*

**when he comes to judge the earth.**

He will judge the world with righteousness \*

**and the peoples with his truth.**

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 for ever. Amen.**

A Reading from Romans 16:25–27.

*For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, 12training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, 13while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. 14He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.*

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

Hymn: It Came Upon A Midnight Clear (CP #140)

The Lord be with you: **And also with you.**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Luke (2:1-20).

**Glory to You, Lord Jesus Christ.**

*In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. 2This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. 3All went to their own towns to be registered. 4Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. 5He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. 6While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. 7And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.*

*8In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: 11to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. 12This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” 13And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,*

*14 “Glory to God in the highest heaven,*

*and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”*

*15When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” 16So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. 17When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; 18and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. 19But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. 20The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.*

The Gospel of Christ: **Praise be to You, O Christ.**

Sermon

The Apostles’ Creed

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again 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.**

**INTERCESSIONS**

*In joy and humility let us pray to the creator of the universe, saying, “Lord, grant us peace.”*

*By the good news of our salvation brought to Mary by the angel, hear us, O Lord.*

***Lord, grant us peace.***

*By the mystery of the Word made flesh, hear us, O Lord.*

***Lord, grant us peace.***

*By the birth in time of the timeless Son of God, hear us, O Lord.*

***Lord, grant us peace.***

*By the manifestation of the King of glory to the shepherds and magi, hear us, O Lord.*

***Lord, grant us peace.***

*By the submission of the maker of the world to Mary and Joseph of Nazareth, hear us, O Lord.* ***Lord, grant us peace.***

*By the baptism of the Son of God in the river Jordan, hear us, O Lord.*

***Lord, grant us peace.***

*Grant that the kingdoms of this world may become the kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ; hear us, O Lord.*

***Lord, grant us peace.***

*Almighty and most merciful God, we remember before you the homeless, the destitute, the sick, the aged, and all who have none to care for them. Heal those who are broken in body or spirit, and turn their sorrow into joy. Grant this for the love of your Son, who for our sake became poor, Jesus Christ our Lord.* ***Amen.***

*Hear and answer our prayers, O Lord; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, according to your will, and your grace.* [***Take a moment of silence to offer up prayers and thanksgivings, for yourself and others. Our weekly prayer list can be found in this week’s bulletin.***]

*Gracious God, you have heard the prayers of your faithful people; you know our needs before we ask, and our ignorance in asking. Grant our requests as may be best for us. This we ask in the name of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.* ***Amen****.*

Collect

*O God our Father,*

*whose Word has come among us in the Holy Child of Bethlehem, may the light of faith illumine our hearts and shine in our words and deeds; through him who is Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.* ***Amen.***

The Lord’s Prayer

And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**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, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn: *Silent Night* (CP# 119)

Dismissal

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**