



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
December 22, 2024 at 8:45am & 11:15am

**Saint Luke Lutheran Church and School**

9100 Colesville Road, Silver Spring, MD

www.saintluke.us | 301-588-4363

*Cradle and cross are inextricably connected on the fourth Sunday of Advent. Between a lovely tribute to the little town of Bethlehem and Mary's magnificent song of praise, the letter to the Hebrews reminds us in no uncertain terms that Christ's advent is for "the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." It is the kind of tension in which the Church always lives as when in holy communion—with high delight—"we proclaim the Lord's death."*

## THE GATHERING

**PRELUDE**

**The Angel Gabriel**  
arr. Fred Gramann

**WELCOME**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,  
alive in the world, reviving creation, arriving soon.,  
**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God of mercy,  
**we confess that we have sinned. We trust earthly powers and human authority alone.**  
**We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.**

God of might,  
**we confess that we have sinned. We have turned away from our neighbors.**  
**We have trusted false promises.**

God in our midst,  
**we confess that we have sinned.**  
**We plead: come to us. Bring your mercy to birth in us.**

A righteous branch springs forth: it is Christ the Lord, our Savior, in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy. By the power of the Holy Spirit, receive the grace and forgiveness of God through ✠ Christ Jesus, whose day draws near. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

ELW 257 – O Come, O Come Emmanuel



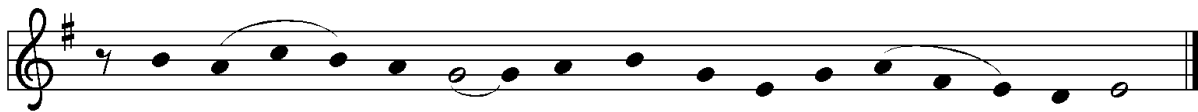
1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive  
 2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things  
 3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on  
 4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here  
 far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;  
 Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law  
 tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
 teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joice! Re-joice!  
 in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.  
 and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

Text: *Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum*, Koln, 1710; tc. composite

Music: French Processional, 15th cent.

Tune: VENI EMMANUEL

**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.**

**LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH**

Let us pray.

We praise you, O God, for this wheel of time that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the fourth candle on this wreath, open our eyes to see your presence in the lowly ones of this earth. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may sing of your advent among us in the Word made flesh. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

**Amen.**



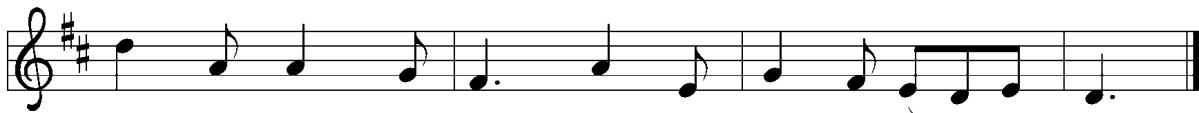
*Advent 1* 1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing  
*Advent 2* 2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is  
*Advent 3* 3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the  
*Advent 4* 4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new



of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,  
 plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,  
 bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,  
 life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming



trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look  
 that in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look  
 bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look  
 with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look



east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.  
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.  
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.  
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881-1965

Music: BESANÇON, French carol

Text © Miss E. Farjeon Will Trust, by permission of David Higham Associates.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

# THE WORD

## FIRST READING

Micah 5:2-5a

*The prophet Micah, having pronounced judgment upon Judah, speaks of a future shepherd-king who, like David, will come from the small town of Bethlehem. (Ephrathah refers to the area around Bethlehem.) This king will restore Israel and bring peace. New Testament Writers understood this passage to be referring to Jesus.*

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth, and he shall be the one of peace.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

## HYMN Luke 1:46-55

## ELW 882 – My Soul Does Magnify the Lord



1 My soul does mag - ni - fy the Lord; my spir - it  
2 From this day all will call me blest, from now through  
3 His mer - cy touch - es those who love, and those who  
4 He cast the might - y from their thrones, and he has



sings of God my Sav - ior, for he has looked with  
all the com - ing a - ges. The Lord has done great  
serve . . . one an - oth - er. And with great strength he has  
lift - ed up the low - ly. He fills the hun - gry



love and fa - vor on his low - ly ser - vant.  
things for me and ho - ly is his name.  
scat - tered all the proud in their con - ceit.  
with good things while oth - ers turn a - way.

Text: Grayson Warren Brown, b. 1948

Music: Grayson Warren Brown

Text and Music: © 1992 Grayson Warren Brown, admin. OCP Publications. Used by permission.

## SECOND READING

Hebrews 10:5-10

*The author of Hebrews uses the image of religious sacrifice to convey the significance of Christ's coming. Through obedient acceptance of God's will, Christ allows his own body to become the greatest sacrifice of all, one through which we are made a holy people.*

Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. Then I said, 'See, I have come to do your will, O God' (in the scroll of the book it is written of me)." When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Celtic Alleluia

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

**All:** Alleluia.

Choir: Here I am, the servant <sup>l</sup> of the Lord;\*  
let it be with me according <sup>l</sup> to your word.

**All:** Alleluia.

## GOSPEL READING

Luke 1:39-55

*Elizabeth, John's mother, and Mary, the mother of Jesus, are two women filled with the Holy Spirit and with faith. In Elizabeth's inspired greeting and Mary's song of praise we hear of a saving God who remembers, scatters, lifts up, and fulfills all things.*

The holy gospel according to Saint Luke, the first chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord." And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant. Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name; indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty. He has come to the aid of his child Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

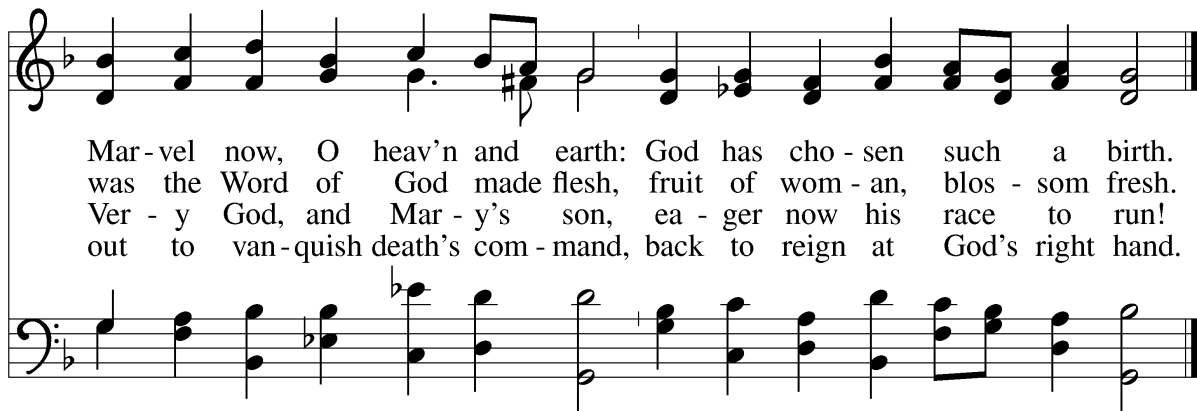
## SERMON

Pastor Zawistoski

*Please stand as you are able.*



1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come; vir - gin's son, make here your home.  
 2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, but the mys - tic Breath of God,  
 3 Won - drous birth—oh, won - drous child— from his throne, a vir - gin mild!  
 4 From God's heart the Sav - ior speeds, back to God his path - way leads;



Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth: God has cho - sen such a birth.  
 was the Word of God made flesh, fruit of wom - an, blos - som fresh.  
 Ver - y God, and Mar - y's son, ea - ger now his race to run!  
 out to van - quish death's com - mand, back to reign at God's right hand.

Text: attr. Ambrose of Milan, 340-397; Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. hymnal version  
 Music: J. Walter, *Geistliche Gesangbüchlein*, 1524  
 Tune: VON HIMMEL HOCH

## APOSTLE'S CREED

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**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

As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us,  
let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence.

*After each portion of the prayers:*

God of hope,  
**receive our prayer.**

*The prayers conclude:*

Saviour of the nations, come, and receive these prayers  
and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ.  
**Amen.**

## PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

*All may share a sign of Peace.*

*Please be seated.*

## THE MEAL

## OFFERING

We invite you to give your offering online at [saintlukegive.us](http://saintlukegive.us)  
You may also mail your checks to:

Saint Luke Lutheran Church  
9100 Colesville Road  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

## OFFERTORY ANTHEM at 8:45AM

**Advent Jubilate**  
Larry Schackley (b. 1956)  
*Schola Cantorum*

## OFFERTORY ANTHEM at 11:15AM

**O Come, O Come Emmanuel**  
The Piano Guys, adpt. Adam Scott Graham  
*Alden Newsome, Clarinet*



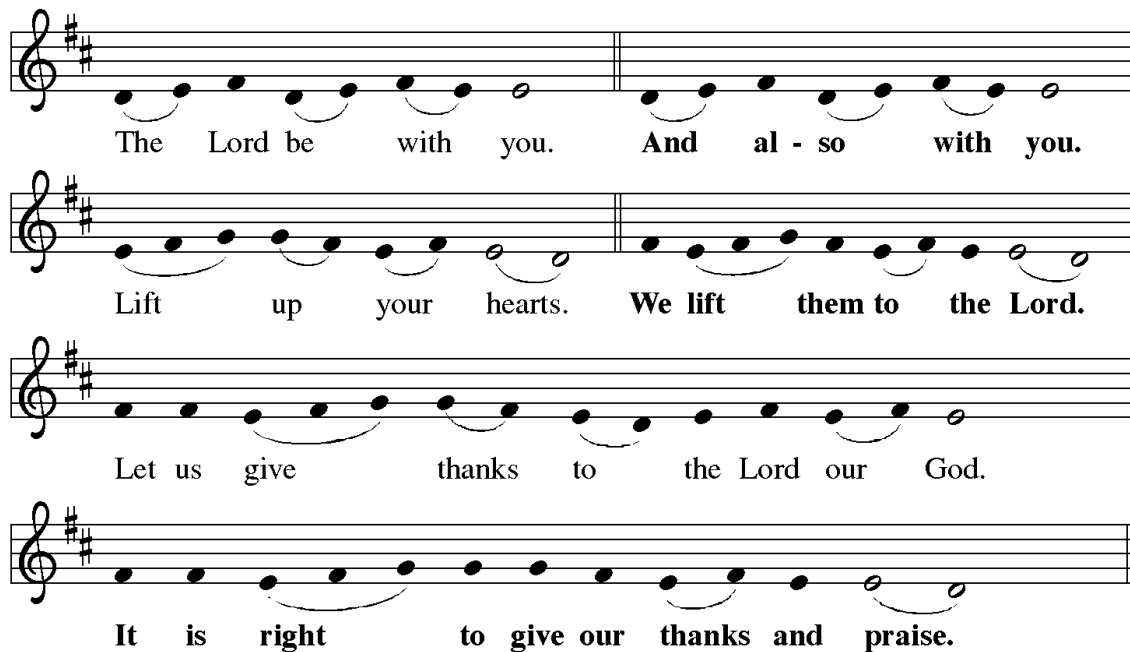
## OFFERING PRAYER

*Please stand as you are able.*

Let us pray.

**Creator God, you made the whole world, even the farthest stars, and you draw near to feed us. We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine. Strengthen us with this food that we may live in expectation for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

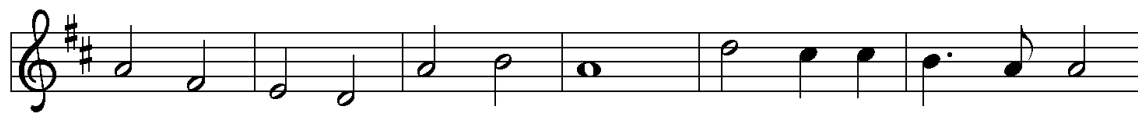
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## SANCTUS

ELW Setting Four



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes



in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

## LORD'S PRAYER

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

*Please pray in your own preferred language.*

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.

Padre Nuestro, que estas en los cielos,  
santificado sea tu nombre,  
venga a nosotros tu reino,  
hagase tu voluntad,  
asi en la tierra como en el cielo.  
Danos hoy nuestro pan de cada dia;  
perdona nuestras ofensas,  
como nosotros perdonamos  
a los que nos ofenden;  
y no nos dejes caer en la tentacion,  
mas libranos del mal.  
Porque tuyo es el reino,  
el poder, y la gloria,  
por los siglos de los siglos. Amen.

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Behold, God is making all things new. Take your place in the new creation.

**Thanks be to God!**

*Please be seated.*

## COMMUNION

*All are invited to the Lord's table, a table of grace and mercy. There are stations at the foot of the chancel steps.*

*Please stretch out your hand, palm up, to receive the host, the body of Christ.*

*(Gluten-free wafers are available; please ask your server)*

*Then receive in the individual cup the blood of Christ. You may deposit your cup in the basket near the side wall. Those who wish to receive a blessing instead of the Lord's supper are also encouraged to come forward. Those who wish to receive the sacrament in the pew, please inform an usher. All are welcome to the Lord's table.*

*When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say:*

The body of Christ, given for you. / The blood of Christ, shed for you.

*The communicant may say:* Amen.

## AGNUS DEI

### ELW Setting Four

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on  
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN

ELW 265 – The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came



1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,  
 2 "For know a bless - ed moth - er thou shalt be,  
 3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;  
 4 Of her, Em - man - u - el, the Christ, was born



with wings as drift - ed snow, with eyes as flame:  
 all gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee;  
 "To me be as it pleas - eth God," she said.  
 in Beth - le - hem all on a Christ - mas morn,



"All hail to thee, O low - ly maid - en Mar - y,  
 thy son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,  
 "My soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy God's ho - ly name."  
 and Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say:



most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."  
 most high - ly fa - vored la - dy." Glo - ri - a!  
 Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy,  
 "Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."

Text: Basque carol; para. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834-1924

Music: Basque carol; arr. C. Edgar Pettman, 1865-1943, and John Wickham

Tune: GABRIEL'S MESSAGE

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

*Please stand as you are able.*

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you,  
 and keep you in his grace.

**Amen.**

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

LEVAS II – Behold Your God!

Oh thou — that tell - est good ti - dings to Zi - on, Oh

thou — that tell - est good ti - dings to Je - ru - sa - lem:

Lift up your voice with strength, — Lift it up don't be a - fraid. Be -

hold — your — God. — A - rise, — and shine, — for the

light of the world is come. Be - hold — your — God! —

Text: Isaiah 40:9

Music: Kenneth W. Louis. Copyright © Kenneth W. Louis. Used with Permission.

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Generous God, we thank you for the gift of life, for the bread of salvation. We thank you for coming among us, for leading us into peace. We thank you for showering us with mercy, for sending us into the world. Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us as we feed the hungry in your name.

**Amen.**

## BLESSING

God of endings and beginnings, God in the darkness and the light,  
God, our hope for the journey, ✠ bless and keep you now and forever.

**Amen.**

## CLOSING HYMN

ELW 439 – Soon and Very Soon



1 Soon and ver - y soon  
2 No more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,  
3 No more dy - in' there,  
4 Soon and ver - y soon



soon and ver - y soon  
no more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,  
no more dy - in' there,  
soon and ver - y soon



soon and ver - y soon  
no more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King.  
no more dy - in' there,  
soon and ver - y soon



Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, we're goin' to see the King!

Text: Andraé Crouch 1945-2015

Music: VERY SOON, Andraé Crouch

Text & Music: © 1976 Bud John Songs, Inc./Crouch Music, admin. EMI Christian Music Publishing

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.  
Thanks be to God.

## POSTLUDE

**Advent Fantasy**  
Judy Phillips

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## WORSHIP LEADERS

### PRESIDING MINISTER

The Rev. Connie A. Miller  
*Senior Pastor*

### READERS

Alix Evans 8:45  
Sarah Manchester 11:15

### PREACHING MINISTER

The Rev. Richard Zawistoski  
*Confirmation Pastor*

### LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

Theda Blackwelder and Shelley Jones 8:45  
Katherine Bassein 11:15

### COMMUNION SERVERS

Rob Grace 8:45  
Gerson Vasquez 11:15

### MUSICIANS

Adam Scott Graham  
*Director of Music*  
Schola Cantorum  
Reformation Bells  
Alden Newsome

## CHRISTMAS EVE

4:00 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. **Children's Creche (Christmas Story) Service**

7:00 p.m. Misa Navidad (Worship is in Spanish)

9:00 p.m. Candlelight Service of  
Lessons, Carols, and Holy Communion

## CHRISTMAS DAY

10:00 a.m. Festival Worship

## COMMEMORATIONS

**Thursday, December 26–Stephen, Deacon and Martyr:** Stephen was a deacon and the first martyr of the church. He was one of those seven upon whom the apostles laid hands after they had been chosen to serve widows and others in need. Later, Stephen's preaching angered the temple authorities, and they ordered him to be put to death by stoning.

**Friday, December 27– John, Apostle and Evangelist:** The son of Zebedee and brother of James, John was one of the twelve disciples and witness to the transfiguration. Tradition has named him also the writer of the Gospel of John, the three New Testament letters bearing his name, as well as Revelation.

**Saturday, December 28– The Holy Innocents, Martyrs:** This day commemorates the young children killed by Herod in Bethlehem in his jealous attempt to murder the baby Jesus, a sobering reminder of the evil that led Christ to be born for our salvation.

## THIS WEEK AT SAINT LUKE

### SUNDAY, December 22–Fourth Sunday of Advent

7:30am Tech Rehearsal  
8:00am Schola Cantorum  
**8:45am Worship (Hybrid)**  
10:00am Up for Discussion (Hybrid)  
10:00am Welcome Gathering  
**11:15am Worship (Hybrid)**  
5:00pm AA

### MONDAY, December 23

### TUESDAY, December 24 – Christmas Eve

4:00pm Children's Creche Service  
5:30pm Children's Creche Service  
7:00pm Misa Navidad  
7:30pm Schola Cantorum  
9:00pm Candlelight Holy Communion  
Festival Service

### WEDNESDAY, December 25 – Christmas Day

10:00am Festival Worship (Hybrid)  
7:30pm AA

### THURSDAY, December 26

7:30pm Centering Prayer (Zoom)  
8:30pm AA

### FRIDAY, December 27

### SATURDAY, December 28

9:30am AA  
11:00am Al-Anon

### SUNDAY, December 29 First Sunday of Christmas

8:30am Tech Rehearsal  
**10:00am Worship (Hybrid)**  
5:00pm AA

*NB: Worship Services are in person and livestreamed*