



# St. Luke's Episcopal Church

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The Rev. Dr. Tyler J. Parry, Priest-in-Charge

**Our Mission Statement:**

*To spread the Gospel to all people through hospitality, service, and spiritual growth.*



THE EVE OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

December 24, 2025

**Sung Holy Eucharist, Rite II**

8:30pm Wednesday

*Please silence all cell-phones & digital devices until after the Service! Thank you.*



## SUNG LITURGY OF THE DAY

*The Rev. Dr. Tyler J. Parry, Celebrant*

*Setting:*

Mass of the Quiet Hour

*George Oldroyd (1886-1951)*

The Musicians of St. Luke's:

*Gabriella Tolerico, Soprano*

*Meredith Hudak, Alto*

*Max Roche, Tenor*

*Christopher Gallo, Bass*

*Maria Zengion, Organist and Choirmaster*

Hymns, in numerical order, are in the 1982 Hymnal; service music is listed on the service leaflet and may be found in the front of the 1982 Hymnal, with "S" before the number. "BCP" with a page number refers to The Book of Common Prayer.



## PRAYER BEFORE THE SERVICE

O Almighty God, *who pourest* out on all who desire it the spirit of grace and of supplication: Deliver us, when we draw near to *thee*, from coldness of heart and wanderings of mind, that with steadfast thoughts and kindled affections we may worship *thee* in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

## CHORAL PRELUDE

Once in Royal David's City	H.J. Gauntlett (1805-1876)
Jesus Christ the Apple Tree	Elizabeth Poston (1905-1987)
The Seven Joys of Mary	Trad. carol arr. Richard Shephard (1949-2021)
In Dulce Jubilo	Michael Praetorius (1571-1621)
Es ist ein Ros entsprungen Op.122	Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)
This Christmas night	Malcolm Williamson (1931-2003)
A stable lamp is lighted	David Hurd (b. 1950)
Ave Maria	Bach/Gonoud (1818-1893)
Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern BuxWV 223	Dietrich Buxtehude (1637-1707)

## PROCESSIONAL HYMN #83 O come, all ye faithful, vs 1-3

*Adeste Fidelis*

*All stand, in body or in spirit.*

## THE BLESSING OF THE CHRISTMAS CRECHE

*Celebrant* The word was made flesh and dwelt among us.

**People** And we beheld his glory.

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

ALMIGHTY and everliving God, you have given us a new revelation of your loving providence in the Coming of your Son Jesus Christ to be born of the Virgin Mary: Grant that as he shared our mortality, so we may share his eternity in the glory of your kingdom; where he lives and reigns for ever and ever. *Amen.*

## HYMN #83 O come, all ye faithful, vs 4-6

*Adeste Fidelis*

## THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

BCP page 355

*Celebrant* Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
**People** And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

## THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

BCP page 355

ALMIGHTY GOD, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

## THE GLORIA HYMN #96 Angels we have heard on high

*Gloria*

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

BCP page 212

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.  
**People** And also with you.  
*Celebrant* Let us pray.

O GOD, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. *Amen.*



# THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

*All sit.*

## THE FIRST READING

Isaiah 62:6-12

*Reader*            A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

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.  
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.  
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.  
For all the boots of the tramping warriors  
    and all the garments rolled in blood  
    shall be burned as fuel for the fire.  
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.  
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.

*Reader*            The Word of the Lord.

**People**            **Thanks be to God.**

*Sung by the choir**David Hurd (b.1950)*

- SING to the Lord a new song; \*  
sing to the Lord, all the whole earth.
- 2 Sing to the Lord and bless his Name; \*  
proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.
- 3 Declare his glory among the nations \*  
and his wonders among all peoples.
- 4 For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; \*  
he is more to be feared than all gods.
- 5 As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; \*  
but it is the Lord who made the heavens.
- 6 Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence! \*  
Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary!
- 7 Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples; \*  
ascribe to the Lord honor and power.
- 8 Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name; \*  
bring offerings and come into his courts.
- 9 Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; \*  
let the whole earth tremble before him.
- 10 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."
- 11 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.
- 12 Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy  
before the Lord when he comes, \*  
when he comes to judge the earth.
- 13 He will judge the world with righteousness \*  
and the peoples with his truth.

## THE SECOND READING

Titus 2:11-14

*Reader* A reading from the letter of Paul to Titus.

FOR the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He 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..

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

**People** Thanks be to God.

**\*SEQUENCE HYMN #89 It came upon a midnight clear**

*Carol*

## THE HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 2:1-20

*All standing, in body or in spirit.*

*Reader* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

**People** Glory to you, Lord Christ.

IN THOSE DAYS a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph 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. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And 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.

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

"Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

When 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." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

*Reader*            The Holy Gospel of our Lord.  
**People**            **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

### **THE SERMON**

**Father Parry**

*All sit.*

### **THE NICENE CREED**

**BCP page 358**

*All stand, in body or in spirit.*

We believe in one God,  
    the Father, the Almighty,  
    maker of heaven and earth,  
    of all that is, seen and unseen.  
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
    the only Son of God,  
    eternally begotten of the Father,  
    God from God, Light from Light,  
    true God from true God,  
    begotten, not made,  
    of one Being with the Father.  
Through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
    he came down from heaven:  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
    he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,  
    and was made man.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
    he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
    in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
    and is seated at the right hand of the Father.



He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.  
He has spoken through the Prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

### **THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Form III**

**BCP page 387**

*The Leader and People pray responsively*

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;  
*That we all may be one.*

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;  
*That your Name may be glorified by all people.*

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;  
*That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.*

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;  
*That there may be justice and peace on the earth.*

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;  
*That our works may find favor in your sight.*

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;  
*That they may be delivered from their distress.*

Give to the departed eternal rest.  
*Let light perpetual shine upon them.*

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;  
*May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.*

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

*Silence*

*The People may add their own petitions.*

*The celebrant adds the concluding Collect*

Eternal God, in whose perfect kingdom no sword is drawn but the sword of righteousness, no strength known but the strength of love: So mightily spread abroad your Spirit, that all peoples may be gathered under the banner of the Prince of Peace, as children of one Father; to whom be dominion and glory, now and for ever. *Amen.*

## **THE PEACE**

*Celebrant*      The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**People**      **And also with you.**

*The Ministers and the people may greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

## **GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **THE HOLY COMMUNION**

### **OFFERTORY SENTENCE**

*Representatives of the congregation bring the people's offerings of bread and wine, and money or other gifts, to the deacon or celebrant. The people stand in body or in spirit while the offerings are presented and placed on the Altar.*

**OFFERTORY HYMN #78 O little town of Bethlehem**

*Forest Green*

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING, Eucharistic Prayer A**

**BCP page 361**

**SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS**

*Sung by the choir*

**THE GREAT AMEN**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER (Traditional)**

**S119**

## **THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD**

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.*

*A period of silence is kept.*

*Celebrant*      Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

**People**      **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

## THE FRACTION ANTHEM

*Sung by the choir*

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

*The Celebrant says*

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

*We welcome all baptized persons, regardless of age or denomination to receive communion at Saint Luke's. The Celebrant will place the consecrated host in your hand; a Eucharistic minister will then offer you the common cup. You may receive the wine, intinct (dip the bread in the wine), or the Eucharistic minister can intinct for you. If you do not wish to receive communion, we invite you to come forward to receive a blessing. To show that you wish to receive a blessing, please cross your arms across your chest.*

## MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

### In the Bleak Midwinter

Harold Darke (1888-1976)

*In the bleak winter  
Frosty wind may moan  
Earth stood hard as iron  
Water like a stone;  
Snow had fallen,  
Snow on snow,  
In the bleak midwinter  
Long ago.*

*Our God heav'n cannot hold him  
Nor earth sustain;  
Heaven and earth shall flee away  
When he comes to reign:  
In the bleak midwinter  
A stable place sufficed  
The Lord God Almighty  
Jesus Christ.*

*Enough for him,  
Whom cherubim  
Worship night and day,  
A breastful of milk,  
And a manger full of hay;  
Enough for him, whom angels  
Fall down before,  
The ox and ass and camel  
Which adore.*

*What can I give him,  
Poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd,  
I would bring a lamb,  
If I were a Wise Man  
I would do my part,  
Yet what I can give him  
Give my heart.*

### The Holy Boy

John Ireland (1879-1962)

## AN ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

*A spiritual communion is a personal devotional that anyone can pray at any time to express their desire to receive Holy Communion at that moment, but in which circumstances impede them from receiving Holy Communion.*

MY JESUS, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though you have already come, I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you; never permit me to be separated from you. *Amen.*

## THE POST-COMMUNION HYMN #111 Silent night, holy night

*Stille Nacht*

*During the singing of the hymn, torchbearers will bring the light from the Christ candle to the end of each pew. Please carefully light your candle and pass the light to your neighbor.*

## THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

BCP page 365

ETERNAL GOD, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

## THE BLESSING

## THE FINAL HYMN #100 Joy to the world

*Antioch*

## DISMISSAL

BCP page 337

## POSTLUDE Fanfare on 'Antioch'

Gerre Hancock (1934-2012)

### PRAYER AFTER THE SERVICE

Grant, we beseech *thee*, Almighty God, that the words which we have heard this day with our outward ears, may, through *thy* grace, be so grafted inwardly in our hearts, that they may bring forth in us the fruit of good living, to the honor and praise of *thy* Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

*The candle beside the aumbry in which the Blessed Sacrament is reserved is given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Grace Raskauskas by Mario and Lucetta Savinelli.*

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**SPECIAL MINISTERS**

Altar Guild: D. Lewis, D. Kraus  
Ushers: R. Ammenhauser; B. Ott  
Crucifer and Acolyte: A. Guthrie  
Thurifer: D. Kraus  
Torchbearers: D. Lewis, M. Baccoli  
Lectors: L. Fanelli; R. Beal  
Intercessor: S. Sollami  
Chalice Bearer: M. Baccoli

Diane Kraus, Verger  
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## Upcoming Holiday Services

Family Christmas Eve at St. Mark's, Moscow	4:00pm	December 24
Christmas Eve Holy Eucharist with Choral Prelude	8:30pm	December 24
Christmas Day Holy Eucharist	10:00am	December 25
The Feast of the Holy Name	11:00am	January 1
The Feast of the Epiphany	7:00pm	January 6

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

**"Tell Out My Soul" Stewardship Campaign:** Please find in today's leaflet a Christmas reflection for our stewardship campaign. Stewardship pledge cards will be collected on January 11, 2026, the First Sunday after the Epiphany. Pledge cards are available in the back of the nave.

**Epiphany Chalk and House Blessings** – During our Tuesday, January 6, 7:00pm Feast of the Epiphany Holy Eucharist, chalk will be blessed that you can take home and to chalk the door of your home. Father Parry will also be doing house blessings and chalk doors during the season of Epiphany – stay tuned for more information!

**Molly's Food Pantry Update** - St. Luke's is continuing to collect shelf stable food for Molly's Pantry located in Nay Aug Park. We are asking for cold weather, comfort foods (soups, stews, grains, rice, pasta, and pasta sauces). Proteins like canned meats/tuna and peanut butter are essential, as are hot drink mixes and bottled water. A shopping cart is available in Kreidler Hall for your donations, or if you're in the neighborhood, you can drop off your gift directly in the pantry located near the helipad in Nay Aug Park.

**The Anna Young Project Update:** - Looking for an impactful volunteer opportunity in the new year? Here it is.

Consider volunteering with The Anna Young Project. Over the course of two days, we will work to continue Anna's legacy. Your support will be invaluable in helping us sort, pack, and prepare 700 gift bags for incarcerated people, bringing a touch of hope and humanity to those who need it most. Volunteer opportunities are available on Monday, January 5th and Tuesday, January, 6th for as little as two hour intervals from 10:00AM to 6:00PM both days. (Opportunities might also be available on Wednesday.) We will be doing this meaningful work at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 232 Wyoming Ave. in Scranton.

Please use the QR code to add your name to our volunteer list. Or you can contact Fr. Parry or Sharon Sollami ([sharonsollami@gmail.com](mailto:sharonsollami@gmail.com)) to add your name to the list of volunteers. Our endeavor helps remind incarcerated men & women that they are not forgotten and are indeed valued members of our shared community. Thank you for your consideration and support. We look forward to collaborating with you on this impactful project.



YouTube Channel

St. Luke's Livestream



Facebook Page

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# Tell Out My Soul

## Go Tell it on the Mountain: A Christmas Reflection

**M**ountaintops are amazing places. Certainly they are remote and difficult to access, but once there, great things happen. Perhaps it is a moment to take in the wonder of Creation as one looks across great vistas. Maybe it is seeing how small the buildings and people down on the ground are, and recognizing our humility and place in the world order. It might just be a feeling of achievement or arrival at having made it to the top. It is no wonder that so many important moments in the Bible take place on mountains.

They are a place of direct communication with God, access. They are a place of mystery and transfiguration. They are a place to receive instructions. They are a place to be tempted and to win. The thing in common with mountains is that no one is the same when they return. Something has changed. In the Christmas Carol Go Tell it on the Mountain, the singer tells us that the news of the birth of Jesus is so good that we must ascend the heights to shout it out. It is as if the song bursts forth from our souls, needing to be shared with a world in need. What could it be that is so important that it needs to be communicated so urgently?

I have many versions of this famous carol in my Christmas playlist, but it wasn't until I listened to Mahalia Jackson's slow, almost bluesy version, that I understood what the real message was. This is not about kingship or messiahship or miracles - the infant born in a manger came to do more than claim his spot of authority. He came to save us from oppression, to begin the change within us that transforms God's breath of love into an act of redemption in the world. That's the news that must be shared with a world full of longing. [TENS.org](http://TENS.org)



### Questions for Reflection:

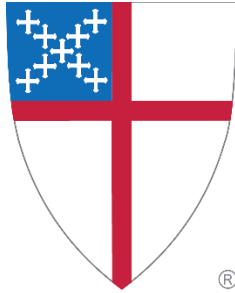
What Christmas carol describes your understanding of the Good News?



**Cn. J. Davey Gerhard**  
serves as Executive Director of TENS: The Episcopal Network for Stewardship and has more than 2,400 songs in his Christmas playlist.



THE EPISCOPAL  
NETWORK FOR  
STEWARDSHIP



**Said Holy Eucharist Saturdays 5:00pm**

*Followed by Coffee Hour in Kreitler Hall the first Saturday of the month.*

**Sung Holy Eucharist Sundays 11:00am**

*Followed by Coffee Hour in Kreitler Hall every Sunday.*

**Said Holy Eucharist Wednesdays 12:10pm**

*with prayers and anointing for healing*

**The Reverend Doctor Tyler J. Parry, Priest-in-Charge**

**Maria Zengion, Organist and Choirmaster**

**The Vestry**

Mickey Baccoli, (Senior Warden), Rick Ammenhauser (Junior Warden), Thomas Hoppel (Treasurer),  
Diane Kraus (Clerk), Kim DeSanto, Anne Cianfichi and Laura Craig

**CONTACT US**

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**St. Luke's**  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH



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