



St. Luke's Episcopal Church

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 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 6-7, 2025

Said Holy Eucharist, Rite II

5:00pm Saturday

Sung Holy Eucharist, Rite II

11:00am Sunday

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

SATURDAY SAID LITURGY OF THE DAY

The Rev. Dr. Tyler J. Parry, Celebrant

Headings marked with an asterisk (*) Sunday only; Hymns are omitted and those portions of the liturgy designated to be sung are said. "BCP" with a page number refers to The Book of Common Prayer.



SUNDAY SUNG LITURGY OF THE DAY

The Rev. Dr. Tyler J. Parry, Celebrant

Setting:

Communion Service in D Minor

Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

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.*

***PRELUDE**

Veni Emmanuel

13th c.

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN #616 Hail to the Lord's Anointed** *Es flog ein kleins Waldvölein*
All stand, in body or in spirit.

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

BCP page 355

Celebrant Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

People His mercy endures for ever.

The Celebrant reads the following sentence

Jesus said, "The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord your God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these." *Mark 12:29-31*

The Celebrant says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be 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 neighbors 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.

The Celebrant stands and says

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ,
strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen.*

The Celebrant offers the comfortable words.

Holy God,
 Holy and Mighty,
 Holy Immortal One,
 Have mercy upon us.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

BCP page 211

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

MERCIFUL GOD, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

All sit.

THE FIRST READING

Isaiah 11:1-10

Reader A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

A SHOOT shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
 and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
 The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,
 the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
 the spirit of counsel and might,
 the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.
 His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
 or decide by what his ears hear;
 but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
 and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
 he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
 and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
 Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,
 and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb,
 the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
 the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
 and a little child shall lead them.
 The cow and the bear shall graze,
 their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
 The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
 and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.
 They will not hurt or destroy
 on all my holy mountain;
 for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord
 as the waters cover the sea.
 On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of
 him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Reader The word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 72:1-7, 18-19

Deus, judicium

BCP page 685

**Sung by the choir*

Stephen Elvey (1805-1860)

GIVE the King your justice, O God, *
 and your righteousness to the King's Son;
 2 That he may rule your people righteously *
 and the poor with justice;
 3 That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, *
 and the little hills bring righteousness.
 4 He shall defend the needy among the people; *
 he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.
 5 He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, *
 from one generation to another.
 6 He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, *
 like showers that water the earth.
 7 In his time shall the righteous flourish; *
 there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.
 18 Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel, *
 who alone does wondrous deeds!
 19 And blessed be his glorious Name for ever! *
 and may all the earth be filled with his glory.
 Amen. Amen.

THE SECOND READING

Romans 15:4-13

Reader A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

WHATEVER was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

"Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles,
and sing praises to your name";
and again he says,

"Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people";
and again,

"Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,
and let all the peoples praise him";

and again Isaiah says,

"The root of Jesse shall come,
the one who rises to rule the Gentiles;
in him the Gentiles shall hope."

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

***SEQUENCE HYMN #75 There's a voice in the wilderness crying**

Ascension

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 3:1-12

All standing, in body or in spirit.

Reader The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

IN THOSE DAYS John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.’”

Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

“I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

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

Intercessor As we prepare the way of the Lord, let us offer prayers to God who will baptize us with the Holy Spirit and fire saying, Come, O Holy One, and save us.

For the Church: remembering especially Sean our Presiding Bishop, Kevin our bishop, and Audrey, bishop of Central Pennsylvania, that we may live boldly as disciples and be instruments of transformation for the world. *Come, O Holy One, and save us.*

For the people of our companion diocese of Kajo Keji in South Sudan, that God may strengthen, comfort, and hold them in safekeeping during this time of trial. *Come, O Holy One, and save us.*

For this parish family, that we may bear witness to God's reign by living in harmony with one another and be filled with joy and peace in believing. *Come, O Holy One, and save us.*

For the renewal of all creation, that we may turn from the wastelands of violence and deceit, and dedicate ourselves to promoting faithful, honest, and loving relationships.
Come, O Holy One, and save us.

For those who long for peace in troubled places: that God will guide the negotiations between Ukraine and Russia, sustain the ceasefire in Gaza and Lebanon, and preserve the peace in Venezuela.
Come, O Holy One and save us.

For the prophets in our day, and for those who call us to face the truth, live the truth, and speak the truth to one another, that they may be strengthened by the Spirit of God.
Come, O Holy One, and save us.

For an end to violence in our cities and families, that the Spirit of God will transform hearts, help people recognize the dignity of each person, and disrupt the plans of those who seek to kill or injure others. *Come, O Holy One, and save us.*

For those everywhere who suffer from the power of nature and the cold of winter, for the hungry and the homeless, and for the sick and the suffering, remembering especially Jordan, Frank, Elaine, Lynn, Mary Jane, Robin, Heather, Chase, Philomena, Jeanette, Mario, Canon Bill+, Scott, Margaret, Brendan, Albert, Bessie, Christine, Colleen, Melissa, John, Anne, and Josie, that they may find hope and courage in the power of God's spirit. *Come, O Holy One, and save us.*

For all those who have died, remembering especially Ricky, John, and Linda, that they may find God's holy mountain a haven of peace and glory. *Come, O Holy One, and save us.*

In the communion of blessed Mary the God-bearer, Blessed Luke, and all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to Christ our God.
To you, O Lord our God.

Celebrant O Root of Jesse, who comes as a sign of God's justice, hear our prayers and help us always to hear the prophet's call to turn our hearts to you, in the name of Jesus Christ the Savior.
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 ANTHEM** O day of peace that dimly shines **C.H.H. Parry (1848-1918)**

*O day of peace that dimly shines
through all our hopes and prayers and dreams,
guide us to justice, truth, and love,
delivered from our selfish schemes.
May swords of hate fall from our hands,
our hearts from envy find release,
till by God's grace our warring world
shall see Christ's promised reign of peace.*

*Then shall the wolf dwell with the lamb,
nor shall the fierce devour the small.
As beasts and cattle calmly graze,
a little child shall lead them all.
Then enemies shall learn to love,
all creatures find their true accord.
The hope of peace shall be fulfilled,
for all the earth shall know the Lord.*

Carl. P. Daw, Jr. (b.1944)

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING, *Eucharistic Prayer A*

BCP page 361

***SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS**

Sung by the choir

***THE MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION**

S133

***THE GREAT AMEN**

S142

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

Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, grant us peace.

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.

*ANTHEM DURING COMMUNION Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding

Ian Higginson (b.1959)

*Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding.
"Christ is nigh," it seems to say;
Cast away the works of darkness,
O ye children of the day."*

*Lo! The Lamb, so long expected,
comes with pardon down from heaven; l
et us haste, with tears of sorrow,
one and all to be forgiven;*

*Awakened by the solemn warning, let
the earthbound soul arise;
Christ, our Son, all fear dispelling,
shines upon the morning skies.*

*Honor, glory, might, and blessing
to the Father and the Son,
with the everlasting Spirit,
while unending ages run. Amen.*

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 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 #65 Prepare the way, O Zion**

Bereden väg för Herren

DISMISSAL

BCP page 337

***POSTLUDE** *Bereden väg för Herren*

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

Saturday, 5:00pm
Altar Guild: L. Savinelli, M. Savinelli
Ushers: L. Savinelli, M. Savinelli
Crucifer and Acolyte: D. Kraus
Lectors: K. DeSanto, TBD
Intercessor: K. DeSanto
Chalice Bearer: D. Kraus

Sunday, 11:00am
Altar Guild: D. Lewis, D. Kraus
Ushers: R. Ammenhauser; B. Ott
Crucifer and Acolyte: TBD
Lectors: L. Craig; L. Edwards
Intercessor: B. Ott
Chalice Bearer: D. Kraus

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

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ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

"Tell Out My Soul" Stewardship Campaign: Please find in this week's leaflet a stewardship pledge card and Advent reflection to start off our annual Stewardship campaign. Stewardship pledge cards will be collected on January 11, 2026, the First Sunday after the Epiphany. Pledge cards are also available in the back of the nave.

Christmas Memorial Flowers and Greens: All who wish to give flowers and greens in memory or honor of a loved one and have their name included on St. Luke's Christmas Memorial List may use the envelopes marked "Christmas Memorial Flowers and Greens." Envelopes have been included in the service leaflets and are available on the table in the back of the nave.

Parish Cleanup Day – Saturday, December 13, 10am-12pm: All are welcome to come lend a hand sprucing up the church and parish house for the Christmas season.

Advent Event: A Christmas Carol Reading – December 14, 2pm-4pm: We are in the process of organizing a reading of *A Christmas Carol* in the Communal Reading Version formatted as a play by the Jesuit Media Lab on December 14, from 2-4, in cooperation with St. Mark's, Moscow. If you'd like to volunteer, contact Rebecca Beal, Rebecca.beal@scranton.edu. As you make your Advent plans, please include us, whether as a reader or not!

The Greening of the Church - Saturday, December 20, 10am-12pm: Help makeake our church beautiful for the Christmas season, placing wreaths and hanging greens. We will also be polishing the silver and brass, so if you enjoy that, please stop by!

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 will be available in Kreitler 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.

Friends of the Poor and Catherine McAuley Center Toy/Gift Drive: St. Luke's is once again collaborating with Friends of the Poor and Catherine McAuley Center for their annual Christmas Gift Distribution. Toy/gift donations will be accepted through Wednesday, December 10th. St. Luke's will be focusing our efforts on kids of middle and high school age, but toys for all ages are welcome. If you prefer, monetary donations can be made to "Friends of the Poor and Catherine McAuley Center". Please note "Gifts for Kids" in the memo line. All gifts must be new and unwrapped.



The Anna Young Project - Anna Young served as a volunteer at the Lackawanna County Prison for more than three decades, spearheading a program providing inmates with candy, snacks, and cards. St. Luke's is again partnering with others to continue Anna's legacy, preparing "goody bags" for distribution at the prison in early January. If you would like to support this ministry financially, please scan the

QR code, or send a check payable to Scranton Area Community Foundation, 612 Jefferson Ave., Scranton, PA 18510 with "The Anna Young Project" in the memo line. See Father Parry or Sharon Sollami for more information.



YouTube Channel

View St. Luke's Livestream!



Facebook Page



Tell Out My Soul

Every Valley: An Advent Reflection

Each year as the calendar turns to Advent, I find myself thumbing through my music library to pull up The Messiah. Best known for its ending movements and the rousing Hallelujah Chorus, the first movement is my favorite, and the one I begin humming to myself in early December. The prophets tell us of a great power, a person to come, who will level the field and reveal the right path. “Every valley shall be exalted,” the Tenor boldly asserts!

Whether it is the Tenor stepping forward for the first solo aria, or visions of a prophet standing in a rocky, winding landscape, the effect is the same: a great work starts with a promise, with a proud proclamation, with someone to point the way. The prophet has something exciting to share with us, something so important that the barriers that stand in the way of hearing and acting on their words will melt away. There is an exchange happening here: the prophet has something to share, and we, who hear the message, have something to receive. When we do, the shock waves of those words will batter down mountains and smooth the rough edges within us.

This same transformation happens when we share our gifts with the church. Our investments of time, talent, and treasure are the natural response to having heard the words of the prophet and having been changed by their message. However you respond to the prophet, the world around you is being made ready to receive what you will share with it. And in every direction, as the chorus answers the Tenor, “The Glory of the Lord will be revealed.” tens.org



Questions for Reflection:

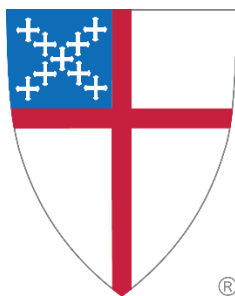
As you ease into Advent this year, pay attention to the tug of the prophet – what is it that you are hearing? How does it cause you to act? Does it fill you with the urge to share that good news and goodness with others?



Cn. J. Davey Gerhard serves as Executive Director of TENS: The Episcopal Network for Stewardship, and works diligently each year to make space for Advent amidst the busy December hustle.



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

(570) 342-7654

StLukesScranton@verizon.net



St. Luke's
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

232 Wyoming Ave. Scranton, PA 18503 570.342.7654



StLukeScranton.org