# CHRISTMAS EVE Worship



DECEMBER 24, 2025 5:00PM AND 7:00PM

## ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

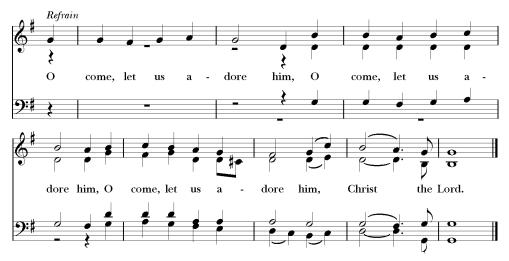
73 S. FULLERTON AVENUE, MONTCLAIR, NJ SLECHURCH.ORG 973-744-6220

"Joyfully Seeking and Serving Christ"

12/23/25 9·59 AM

HYMN 83 (The Hymnal 1982 Words: John Francis Wade Music: Adeste fideles)





6 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning; Jesus, to thee be glory given; Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;

Refrain

## **OPENING ACCLAMATION** (Book of Common Prayer, p. 355)

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

People And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

## **COLLECT FOR PURITY** (Book of Common Prayer, p. 355)

All 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.

Please stand as you are able and join in singing verse 1.

HYMN 96 (The Hymnal 1982 Words: French carol; tr. James Chadwick Music: Gloria, arr. E.S. Barnes)

Angels we have heard on high



## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY (Book of Common Prayer, p. 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.

All Amen.

## THE WORD OF GOD

Please be seated for the readings

#### THE FIRST LESSON

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. 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.

We will say the appointed Psalm alternately by full verse.

## **PSALM 96** (St. Helena Psalter)

Sing to God a new song; \* sing to God all the whole earth.

# Sing and bless God's holy Name; \* proclaim the good news of salvation from day to day.

Declare God's glory among the nations, \* God's wonders among all peoples.

# For God is great and greatly to be praised, \* more to be feared than all gods.

As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols, \* but it is God who made the heavens.

# Oh, the majesty and magnificence of God's presence! \* Oh, the power and the splendor of God's sanctuary!

Ascribe to God, you families of the peoples, \* ascribe to God honor and power.

# Ascribe due honor to God's holy Name; \* bring offerings and come into the courts of praise.

Worship the Most High in the beauty of holiness; \* may the whole earth stand in awe.

# Tell it out among the nations that God reigns! \* God has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved; God 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 God, who will come, \* who will come to judge the earth.

God will judge the world with righteousness \* and the peoples with truth.

### THE SECOND LESSON

A reading from the book of Titus (2:11-14)

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.** 

**HYMN 78** (The Hymnal 1982 Words: Philips Brooks Music: Forest Green, English melody)
O little town of Bethlehem



## THE HOLY GOSPEL

Gospeler The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke (2:1-14)

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city.

And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.

And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, 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, and on earth peace, good will toward all.

Gospeler The Gospel of the Lord

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

**HOMILY** The Rev. John A. Mennell

## **7:00PM ANTHEM**

"O Holy Night," Soloist Warren Carr

## THE NICENE CREED (Book of Common Prayer, p. 358)

Celebrant Let us stand together with Christians throughout the centuries and throughout the world today,

to affirm our faith in the words of the Nicene Creed

All 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.

Who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, Who 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 (Planning for Rites and Rituals)

Celebrant Come let us adore Christ, the Lord. Let us pray, "Glorious Lord, grant us

peace."

Leader Christ the Lord, we humbly adore you: make joyful our hearts. Strengthen

your Church with humility and faith that we might triumph over the power of

evil. Silence. Glorious Lord.

People Grant us your peace.

Leader Christ the Lord, we humbly adore you: you abhor neither the simple nor the

lowly. Shine your light on all the world that the nations may look upon your

truth and find their salvation. Silence. Glorious Lord.

People Grant us your peace.

Leader Christ the Lord, we humbly adore you: may all of creation burst forth in

songs of praise. May all the works of your hand glorify you. Silence.

Glorious Lord.

People Grant us your peace.

Leader Christ the Lord, we humbly adore you: summon the people of the city to

yourself. May all of the distractions and heartache of our lives fade away in

When invited,

please offer your

prayer concerns

aloud.

the joy of your presence. Silence. Glorious Lord.

People Grant us your peace.

Leader Christ the Lord, we humbly adore you: you love us so

dearly. Grant your healing grace to sinners, to the poor, to those in need of love. Open your arms to the sick and the

lonely, especially [insert prayer list]. Silence. Glorious Lord.

People Grant us your peace.

Leader Christ the Lord, we humbly adore you: all glory be given to you. You blessed

our earthly bodies with your birth; and you promise to raise us to new life by

your death and resurrection. Silence. Glorious Lord.

People Grant us your peace.

Celebrant Loving God, the joyful message of the angels fills us with gladness as we

celebrate the coming of the Christ child to live among us in vulnerable humility: Let your divine light so dwell within us, that we may treasure your

words, ponder them in our hearts, and continue the work of Christ's incarnation in our day, through Jesus our Savior, to whom with you and the

Holy Spirit be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

THE PEACE (Book of Common Prayer, p. 360)

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

The Celebrant and People greet one another in the name of the Lord.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **OFFERTORY ANTHEM**

In Judah's Land (arr. Johnson), Soloist Jenna Ferrera

To thee with joy I sing,
sweet child that heaven did bring
Now Judah's land shall ring with thy praises.
Gentle stranger in that manger,
in Judah's land we find thee, Infant savior.

I greet thee, Prince of Peace:
from sin give thy release!
Nor shall my tongue e'er cease from thy praises.
Gentle Stranger, in that manger,
in Judah's land we find thee, Infant Savior.

Thy crib can scarce contain Thy love, our precious gain; May hymns new heights attain with thy praises. Gentle Stranger, in that manger, in Judah's land we find thee, Infant Savior.

Now twilight quietly comes: the Baby lies asleep; play softly, flute and drums, to his praises.
Gentle Stanger, in that manger, in Judah's land we find thee, Blessed Savior.

## GIVE JOYFULLY THIS SEASON

During the offertory, a collection is gathered as we look to give back to God in thanksgiving for all the blessings in our life. Please remain seated during the Offertory to enjoy the anthem. You are invited to take advantage of the following options for giving electronically: Scan the QR codes below to donate through Venmo, Zelle, or our church database. Detailed information is available on the "Giving" tab of our website, slechurch.org.













## CHRISTMAS ALTAR FLOWERS

The Christmas Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God and in thanksgiving for, in memory of, or by the following:

Kris O'Connor in memory of Richard Hatzenbuhler and Maureen & Bill O'Connor

Co & Andie Bertsche in memory of Edwina Sablon, Teddy Sablon, Kenneth Verostick, Alane Sims Wright

Mary Lou Johnston in memory of Barbara & Grant Gille, David Johnston

Sarah Stransky in memory of Bruce Stransky

Joan Mayo in Memory of Harry D. Mayo III, Norene Parker Bradley Maye Clark Mayo, Carrie Carter

> Karen Malone in memory of Betty Malone & Charles Malone

Kathleen Breiten in memory of David, Edna, Helen, Jim, Vincent & Mary

Jana & Ray Cardoza in memory of the dearly departed members of the Anderson & Cardoza families

Keith & Kitty Kawecki in memory of loved ones

In memory of Kathleen Gallo, Raymond Rowe, Hannah, Kenneth Rowe, Ilona Smith, Bea, Shane, Sylvia Smith Edwards & Ridge Edwards

Theresa & Michael McDonnell in memory of Muriel Lowe

In celebration of Tomas & Tiana Patricia Haynes in memory of loved ones

The Sarro Family in memory of loved ones

Ashley Meskill in memory of Robert Paul Engle, Patricia Engle, Robert Earl Engle & Victor P. Meskill

Timothy Mannion in memory of Anne & Joseph Mannion, Maurice Mannion-Vanover, Jonathan Switzer

> Betsy Ginsburg in memory of her husband, David Ginsburg

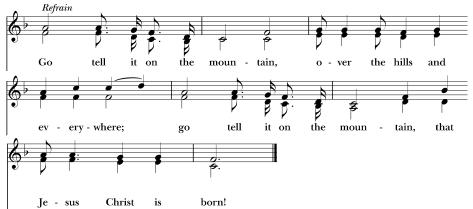
Cathie Mazza in memory of loved ones

Mike Peinovich & Billie Gleissner in memory of loved ones

Please stand as you are able and join in singing.

## PRESENTATION HYMN 99

Go tell it on the mountain



## THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (Eucharistic Prayer B, Book of Common Prayer, p. 367)

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

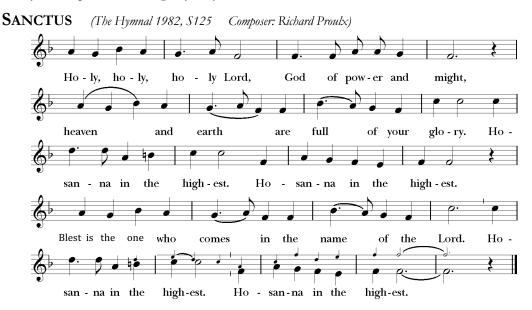
People We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give God thanks and praise.

#### The Celebrant continues

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, God Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect human of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:



The Celebrant continues, you may stand or kneel

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, our Savior. For in these last days you sent Jesus to be incarnate Son from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In Christ, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In Christ, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O God,

Celebrant and People

We remember his death, We proclaim his resurrection We await his coming glory;

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with Mary, Joseph, and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever.

All **Amen.** 

## THE LORD'S PRAYER (Book of Common Prayer, p. 364)

Feel free to pray in whatever language and words that bring you closer to God.

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

All

Mother Our Father who art in heaven, Creator 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, for ever and ever. Amen.

## BREAKING OF THE BREAD (Book of Common Prayer, p. 364)

Celebrant Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

All Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

## **INVITATION** (Book of Common Prayer, p. 365)

Celebrant These are the gifts of God for the people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you and feed on him in your hearts, by faith, with thanksgiving.

You will be guided when it is your turn to join the Communion line.

## **COMMUNION ANTHEM**

The Virgin's Slumber Song (Reger, arr. Campbell)

Amid the roses Mary sits and rocks her Jesus-Child While amid the treetops sighs the breeze so warm and mild And soft and sweetly sings a bird upon the bough Ah, Baby, dearest. Slumber now

Happy is Thy laughter; holy is Thy silent rest Lay Thy head in slumber fondly on Thy mother's breast In German: Schlaf Kindlein süsse. Schlaf nun ein.

Maria sitzt am Rosenhag und wiegt ihr Jesuskind, durch die Blätter leise weht der warme Sommerwind. Zu ihren Füssen singt ein buntes Vögelein Schlaf Kindlein süsse. Schlaf nun ein.

Hold ist dein Lächeln holder deines Schlummers Lust leg dein müdes Köpfchen fest an deiner Mutter Brust. Ah, Baby, dearest. Slumber now Ah, Baby, dearest. Slumber now

HYMN 89 (The Hymnal 1982 Words: Edmund H. Sears Music: Carol, Richard Storrs Willis)





Please stand as you are able.

All

## THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER (Book of Common Prayer, p. 365)

Celebrant Let us pray.

Eternal God, heavenly Being,
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:

With gladness and singleness of heart; Through Christ our Lord. Amen.



## **BLESSING** (Book of Occasional Services p. 23)

Celebrant May almighty God, who sent a Child to take our nature upon him, bless you

in this holy season, scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten your heart with

the light of God's holiness.

All Amen.

Celebrant May God, who sent angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth,

fill you with joy, and make you heralds of the Gospel.

All **Amen**.

Celebrant May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to

heaven give you peace and favor.

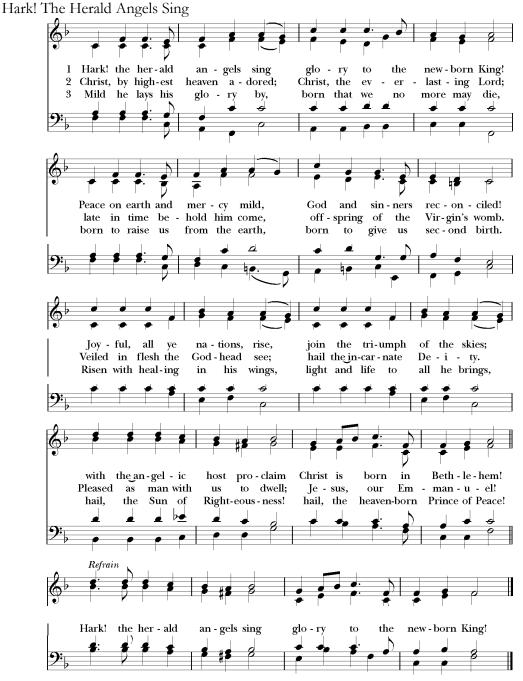
All Amen.

Celebrant And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,

be upon you and remain with you for ever.

All Amen.

HYMN 87 (The Hymnal 1982 Words: Charles Wesley Music: Mendelssohn)



**DISMISSAL** (Book of Common Prayer, p. 365)

Celebrant Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

People Thanks be to God.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

## Thank you to all who help make our services meaningful.

## THE ST. LUKE'S CHOIR

directed by Warren Carr and accompanied by Organist Scott Ziegler

## FLOWER GUILD:

Tim Mannion, Gordon Frey, Martha Thalheimer, Jana Cardoza, Cathie Mazza, Susie Patterson

## **SERVERS:**

Worship Assistant: Martha Thalheimer

## 5:00pm

Verger: Patrick Rodriguez

Virtual Verger. Stevie Tryson

Crucifer: Matt Gazda

Torch: Emma Rodriguez, Ted Walsh

Chalice: Stevie Tryson, Denise Price

Readers:

Susan Singer, Karen Thompson, Keith Kawecki, Candi Carter

Ushers

Jean Innis, Sudhir Frederick

## 7:00pm

Verger: Godfrey Gregg

Virtual Verger. Stevie Tryson

Crucifer: Kathleen Kellaigh

Chalice:

Kathleen Kellaigh, Mike Peinovich

Readers:

Sarah Stransky, Melliss Swenson, Robin Vitullo, Lisa Williams

> Ushers Allen Wastler

The St. Luke's parish offices will be closed until Monday, January 5.

Please reach out to our Rector, The Rev. John A. Mennell (mennell@slechurch.org)
or our Parish Administrator, Christine Corso (corso@slechurch.org)
for anything that needs urgent attention.

## **JOYFULLY SEEKING & SERVING CHRIST**



#### WORSHIP WITH US!

## Sunday

8:00am Eucharist 9:00am Celebrate Service for families with small children 10:00am Eucharist with Choir

#### Wednesday

7:00pm God in Our Midst

#### Monday

7:00pm Bible Study

Email info@slechurch.org for more information.



## **SERVE WITH US!**

## Dining Room Sit-Down Meals

Thursday, Friday, Saturday at 11:30am Sunday at 5:00pm

## **Choice Pantry Grocery Distribution**

Wednesday – Saturday 10:00am – 12:00pm



### TONI'S CLOSET

### Toni's Closet Thrift Shop

Wednesday – Saturday 10:00am – 4:00pm Sunday 11:30am – 2:00pm

Email hello@toniskitchen.org to volunteer.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

## Youth Group

Sundays at 3:00pm

## Newcomers Reception

Sunday, January 18 at 11:30am in the Rectory Join us to learn more about St. Luke's!

## 20s/30s Pot Luck

Wednesday, January 28 at 6:00pm in the Rectory

## **Bishop Visit**

Sunday, February 15

## Pancake Supper

Tuesday, February 17

## Ash Wednesday

Wednesday, February 18

## Easter Bunny Brunch & BBQ

Saturday, April 4 at 9:00am



## **Easter Services**

Sunday, April 5 at 8:00, 9:00 & 10:00am

## FIRST THINGS FIRST

First Sundays of the Month in Toni's Kitchen

9:30am

Kids in the Kitchen

11:30am

Home Team Cooks

3:00pm Youth Group

Day of Service

