Welcome to St. Luke's Episcopal Church!

An inclusive, multicultural community pursuing spiritual and social transformation.
Una comunidad inclusiva y multicultural, en búsqueda de transformación espiritual y social.

At St. Luke's, we welcome and fully affirm everyone equally as children of God created in the image of God. Thank you for joining us as we resume in-person worship. Despite the changes in California guidelines, we continue to recommend that people wear masks indoors. And, we will pass the Peace by bowing, nodding, or waving from a distance. We will celebrate the Eucharist together, and the bread of Holy Communion will be given to all who would like to share in receiving the body of Christ. If you have any needs or concerns, please contact the clergy, the Rev. Jane Gould at jgould@stlukeslb.org or 562-436-4047.

Please turn off your cellphone. If God is going to speak to you during the service, other means will be used.
The Order of Service

Preludes  Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme  J.S.Bach
George Bullock, Cello & Dr. Gukhui Han, Organ

The people enter a darkened, silent church, and take their seats.
The verger, acolytes, choir, Eucharistic ministers, and clergy enter in a silent procession.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath
Source: tan from Lutheran Advent Service of Light

Celebrant  The Spirit and the Church cry out:
People  Come, Lord Jesus.
Celebrant  All who await his appearance pray:
People  Come, Lord Jesus.
Celebrant  The whole creation pleads:
People  Come, Lord Jesus.

Hymn  O come, O come, Emmanuel (v. 1)  Veni, veni, Emmanuel
If you are able, please stand. As the congregation sings, acolytes light the Advent wreath and altar candles.

Celebrant  Let us give thanks to our gracious God.
People  It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Celebrant prays
Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe, creator of light and darkness. In this holy season, when the sun’s light is swallowed up by the growing darkness of night, you renew your promise to reveal among us the splendor of your glory, enfleshed among us in Jesus. Through the prophets you teach us to hope for Christ’s reign of peace. Through the out-pouring of Christ’s Spirit, you open our blindness to the glory of Christ’s presence. Strengthen us in our weakness; support us in our stumbling efforts to do your will; and loosen our tongues to sing your praise. For to you all honor and blessing are due, both now and forever. Amen.
Hymn 68  Rejoice! rejoice, believers

Please remain standing.

Opening Acclamation
Celebrant  Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.
People    Glory to God for ever and ever.

Collect for Purity
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.

Trisaigion (sung three times)
Alexander Archangelsky

Collect of the Day
Celebrant  God be with you,
People     And also with you.
Celebrant  Let us pray.
Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

The First Reading  Zephaniah 3:14-20
A reading from the Book of Zephaniah.
Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The Lord has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the Lord.
Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people. Thanks be to God.
Psalm Isaiah 12:2-6
Remain seated. The soloists will sing first, then the congregation will repeat.

Mark Mummert
St. Luke’s Soloists

REFRAIN

Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid,
for the Lord God is my strength and my might, and has become my salvation.
With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

Refrain

And you will say in that day: give thanks to the Lord, call on God’s name;
make known the deeds of the Lord among the nation; proclaim that this name is exalted.

Refrain

Sing praises to the Lord, who has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth.
Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal ion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

Refrain

The Second Reading Philippians 4:4-7

A reading from Paul’s Letter to the Philippians.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near.
Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people. Thanks be to God.

Gospel Procession 67 Comfort, comfort ye my people Psalm 42


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

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin 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.” And the crowds asked him, “What then should we do?” In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.” Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.” Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what should we do?” He said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.” As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals.
He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.” So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

**The Sermon**

*Silence follows the sermon.*

**Affirmation of Faith**  *If you are able, please stand.*

**Prayers of the People – Advent**

*If you are able, please kneel. The Leader and People pray responsively.*

God of many names, God beyond all names; the beginning and the end of every story, the meaning of every life; infinite Mystery both hidden and revealed:

**Hear us when we pray to you.**

Blessed are You who join us together in the communion of Christ’s Body. Renew and energize your holy Church, in this parish and throughout the world, that we may be a resurrection people, manifesting your steadfast love in our common life of praise and service.

**Hear us when we pray to you.**

O perfect Wisdom, direct and rule the hearts of the leaders and shapers of society, raise up prophets of justice and peace, and empower your people for the holy vocation of repairing the world. May we entrust all our labors to the work of Providence.

**Hear us when we pray to you.**
O compassionate One, hold us in your mercy: heal the sick, mend the broken, protect the vulnerable, shelter the refugee, strengthen the weary, rescue the lost, and give courage to all who struggle.

Hear us when we pray to you.

O Desire of every heart, the answer to every longing: You are the strong force that draws us into the mystery of love divine. Forgive us those things which separate us from you, and lead us ever deeper into the Way, the Truth and the Life.

Hear us when we pray to you.

O Morning Star, bright splendor of the light eternal, illuminating all things with your radiance: Bring light and love to all who mourn the death of loved ones as we remember all those who have died. Grant us your peace, and teach us to live in the dawn of your unfailing promise.

Hear us when we pray to you.

God who has come, God who does come, God who is yet to come: Make us an Advent people, ready and alert to welcome and receive You in the stranger’s face, the loving act, the moment of grace, the presence of healing, the birth of possibility, the gift of wonder. Let every heart prepare You room.

Hear us when we pray to you.

Dear people of God, what else, or who else, should we pray for?

The People offer their particular concerns and thanksgivings, aloud or in silence.

Celebrant O Emmanuel, God-with-us, You show us the face of divinity, and reveal the fullness of our humanity. Come: renew your creation, restore us all in Christ, and enable us to become who we are, your faithful and loving people. We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Confession and Absolution

Celebrant Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

People 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.

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

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of Christ be always with you.

People And also with you.

Special prayers, celebrations, and anniversaries

Offertory Sentence

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.
Offertory Anthem  *O God beyond all praising*  
Gustav T. Holst arr. Rodney Abriol

O God beyond all praising, we worship you today
And sing the love amazing that songs cannot repay;

For we can only wonder at every gift you send, At blessings without number and mercies without end;

We lift our hearts before you and wait upon your Word, We honor and adore you, our great mighty Lord.

Then hear, O gracious Savior, accept the love we bring, That we who know your favor may serve you as our King;

And whether our tomorrows be filled with good or ill, We’ll triumph through our sorrows and rise to bless you still;

To marvel at your beauty and glory in your ways, And make a joyful duty our sacrifice of praise.

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During the anthem, please support the parish by contributing financially to the mission and ministry of St. Luke’s / San Lucas. You may contribute electronically by scanning the QR code to the right, or by placing your offering in the plate as it is passed.

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Offertory Hymn 72 *Hark! the glad sound! the Savior comes*  
Richmond

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The Holy Eucharist

The Great Thanksgiving  *Eucharistic Prayer A*

**If you are able, please stand.**

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<tr>
<th>Celebrant</th>
<th>People</th>
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<td>The Lord be with you. And also with you.</td>
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<td>Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.</td>
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Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing. 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:
Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”
Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

_Celebrant and People_

Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

_The Celebrant continues_

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. _Amen._

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

_Our Father, who art in heaven,_
_hallowed be thy Name,_
_thy kingdom come, thy will be done,_
on earth, as it is in heaven.
_Give us this day our daily bread._
_And forgive us our trespasses,_
as we forgive those who trespass against us._
_And lead us not into temptation,_
but deliver us from evil._
_For thine is the kingdom, and the power,_
and the glory for ever and ever. _Amen._
The Breaking of the Bread  The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.

Celebrant  Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People  Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

The Holy Communion

Wherever you are in your spiritual journey, you are welcome to receive the Eucharist. At this time, due to COVID-19 restrictions, only the bread of Holy Communion will be offered to the congregation. To receive Communion, please form a line down the center aisle. When you reach the altar rail, use the entire rail to stand or kneel around the altar rail to receive the bread, which will be placed in your hands; gluten free wafers are available. Anyone with mobility issues is welcome to remain standing in the center, or stay seated and have the clergy bring Communion to you. If you desire a Blessing rather than Communion, cross your arms on your chest. Please return to your pew by the side aisles. Our prayer partners are in the Chapel to offer prayers with anyone who would like special prayers.

Communion Anthem  Prepare the Way, O Zion  Kenneth Dake

Prepare the way, O Zion, your Christ is drawing near!
Let ev’ry hill and valley a level way appear.
Greet one who comes in glory, foretold in sacred story.
Oh, blest is Christ that came in God’s most holy name.

He brings God’s rule, O Zion; he comes from heav’n from heaven above.
His rule is peace and freedom, and justice, truth, and love.
Lift high your praise resounding, for grace and joy abounding.
O blest is Christ that came in God’s most holy name.
Communion Hymn  Come now, O Prince of Peace

1. Come now, O Prince of Peace, make us one body.
2. Come now, O God of love, make us one body.
3. Come now and set us free, O God, our Savior,
4. Come, Hope of Unity, make us one body,

come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile your people.
come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile your people.
come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile all nations.
come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile all nations.

The Thanksgiving after Communion

Celebrant  Let us pray.
People  God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

The Blessing

Announcements
Hymn  Soon, Very Soon  Andrae Crouch

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

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


Dismissal

Deacon  May the light of Christ lead us to the joy of his kingdom, now and for ever.
People  Thanks be to God.

Postlude  In the Bleak Midwinter  Arr. Joseph M. Martin  Dr. Gukhui Han

We pray for our community:
For Audrey, Betty, Joan, Debra, Luis Eduardo, Martha, Sheila, Juliana, Evelyn, Rose, Vandalue, Isaac, Amos, Kim; for our homeless siblings; who have asked for our prayers; for all those whose lives and livelihoods are affected by COVID-19; for all refugees and immigrants; for an end to violence of all kind.

For those who have died – Tacy Hunter, Chiz Boyea, and Dora Esparza Mabanag.

For the church – For Michael our Presiding Bishop; our Bishop John; for our clergy: Jane, Jennifer, Dean, Beryl, Peter, Antonio, and Steve; for our Vestry and staff.