

**Welcome!** As our Lord Jesus Christ said, Peace be with you. Wherever you come from and wherever you are on your journey of faith, we are glad you are with us. Let us enter into God's presence together.

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**Advent 3**  
**December 14, 2025**  
**10:00 a.m.**

Watch and subscribe on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQdMrwgOpQqS6vn68WMxhow>

Prelude                      “Reprise: Reflections on ‘E’en So Lord Jesus, Quickly Come””      Paul Manz

Opening Hymn                      “On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry”                      Hymnal #76

THE WORD OF GOD

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

*The Celebrant says*

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Advent Wreath Lighting & Kyrie

*A short reading introduces the candle lighting:*

As the people were in expectation, and all men mused in their hearts of John, whether he were the Christ, or not; John answered, saying unto them all, I indeed baptize you with water; but one mightier than I cometh, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to unloose: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire. (*Luke 3:15–16*)

*During the Kyrie, the Advent candles will be lit.*

The musical score is written on three staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The first staff is for the Cantor and the second for the Assembly. The lyrics are: "Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy." The melody is a simple, flowing line with eighth and quarter notes, and rests.

Cantor: Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.  
Assembly: Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.  
Cantor: Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.  
Assembly: Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.  
Cantor: Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.  
Assembly: Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

### The Collect of the Day

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

Stir up thy power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let thy bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be honor and glory, world without end. **Amen.**

*All may be seated*

### First Lesson

*(Isaiah 35:1-10)*

*Reader* A Reading from the Book of Isaiah

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,  
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;  
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,  
and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,  
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the LORD,  
the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands,  
and make firm the feeble knees.  
Say to those who are of a fearful heart,  
"Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.  
He will come with vengeance,  
with terrible recompense.  
He will come and save you."

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;  
then the lame shall leap like a deer,  
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.  
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,  
and streams in the desert;  
the burning sand shall become a pool,  
and the thirsty ground springs of water;  
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,  
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there,  
and it shall be called the Holy Way;  
the unclean shall not travel on it,  
but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.  
No lion shall be there,  
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;  
they shall not be found there,  
but the redeemed shall walk there.  
And the ransomed of the LORD shall return,  
and come to Zion with singing;  
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;  
they shall obtain joy and gladness,  
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

<i>Reader</i>	The Word of the Lord.
<i>People</i>	<b>Thanks be to God.</b>

Psalmody: The Song of Mary, Luke 1:46-55

*The antiphon is first sung by a cantor, then repeated by all.*



*The verses are sung by a cantor. All sing the antiphon where indicated.*

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your lowly servant.  
From this day all generations will call me blessed:      ***Antiphon***

You, the Almighty, have done great things for me  
and holy is your name.

You have mercy on those who fear you  
from generation to generation.      ***Antiphon***

You have shown strength with your arm  
and scattered the proud in their conceit,  
casting down the mighty from their thrones  
and lifting up the lowly.

You have filled the hungry with good things  
and sent the rich away empty.      ***Antiphon***

You have come to the aid of your servant Israel,  
to remember the promise of mercy,  
the promise made to our forebears,  
to Abraham and his children for ever.      ***Antiphon***

Text from English Language Liturgical Commission (ELLC), 1988.  
Music by Charles Thatcher © 2007 World Library Publications.

## The Second Lesson

(James 5:7-10)

*Reader* A Reading from the book of James

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

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

## Sequence Hymn

“Rejoice! rejoice, believers”

Hymn #68

## The Gospel

(Matthew 11:2-11)

*Celebrant* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew.

*People* **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.”

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written,

‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way before you.’

“Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

*Reader*            The Gospel of the Lord.  
*People*            Praise be to thee, O Christ.

The Sermon

The Rev. Matthew L. Buterbaugh

The Nicene Creed

*Please stand.*

**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.**

### Prayers of the People

*The person appointed says*

Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church and the world, praying "Come, O Lord, and save us".

Almighty and everliving God, who in thy holy Word hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all men: Receive these our prayers which we offer unto thy divine Majesty, beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord; and grant that all those who do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love. We pray unto thee:

**Come, O Lord, and save us.**

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all bishops and other ministers, especially Sean our Presiding Bishop, and Matthew our own Bishop, that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments. We pray unto thee:

**Come, O Lord, and save us.**

And to all thy people give thy heavenly grace, and especially to this congregation here present, and to the staff, volunteers and guests of the Hospitality Center, Racine Vocational Ministries, and the Brown Bag Lunch; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive thy holy Word, truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life. We pray unto thee:

**Come, O Lord, and save us.**

We beseech thee also so to rule the hearts of those who bear the authority of government in this and every land, especially Donald the President of the United States, Tony the Governor of Wisconsin, and Cory the Mayor of Racine, that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world.

We pray unto thee:

**Come, O Lord, and save us.**

Open, O Lord, the eyes of all people to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works, that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, they may honor thee with their substance, and be faithful stewards of thy bounty. We pray unto thee:

**Come, O Lord, and save us.**

And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor [\_\_\_\_\_ and] all those who in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity. We pray unto thee:

**Come, O Lord, and save us.**

We give thanks to thee for all the blessings of our lives, [especially: \_\_\_\_\_]. We pray unto thee:

**Come, O Lord, and save us.**

And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear [especially \_\_\_\_\_], beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service; and to grant us grace so to follow the good examples of the ever-blessed Virgin Mary, blessed Luke, blessed James DeKoven, all thy saints, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom. We pray unto thee:

**Come, O Lord, and save us.**

Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. **Amen.**

### The Confession of Sin

*The Deacon or Celebrant says the following*

Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

*Silence may be kept.*

*Minister and People*

**Most merciful God,  
we confess that we have sinned against thee  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done,  
and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved thee with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of thy Son Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us and forgive us;  
that we may delight in thy will,  
and walk in thy ways,  
to the glory of thy Name. Amen.**



*The Priest stands and says*

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

*A Minister then says one the following sentence, first saying*

Hear the Word of God to all who truly turn to him.

This is a true saying, and worthy of all men to be received, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. *1 Timothy 1:15*

The Peace      *All stand.*

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

*People*      **And with thy spirit.**

Announcements

### THE HOLY COMMUNION

*The Celebrant may begin the Offertory with the following sentence of Scripture*

Worthy art thou, O Lord our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for thou hast created all things, and by thy will they were created and have their being. *Revelation 4:11*

Offertory

“Aria”

Robert J. Powell

*If you would like to donate to the ministry of St. Luke's online, please scan this QR code:*



*Celebrant*      All things come of Thee, O Lord

*People*      **And of Thine own have we given Thee. Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

*Book of Common Prayer, Page 340*

<i>Celebrant</i>	<i>People</i>
The Lord be with you.	And with thy spi - rit.
<hr/>	
<i>Celebrant</i>	<i>People</i>
Lift up your hearts. We lift	them up un - to the Lord.

*Celebrant*

Let us give thanks un - to our Lord God.

*People*

It is meet and right so to do.

*Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds*

... Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

### Sanctus

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, 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'd is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*Then the Celebrant continues*

All glory be to thee, O Lord our God, for that thou didst create heaven and earth, and didst make us in thine own image . . .

...By whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end.

A - - - men, a - - - men.  
A - - - men, a - - - men.

## The Lord's Prayer

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

*Celebrant and People:*

Our Fa - ther, who art in hea - ven, hal - low - ed  
be thy Name, thy king - dom come, thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in hea - ven. Give us this day our  
dai - ly bread. and for - give us our tres - pas - ses,  
as we for - give those who tres - pass a - gainst us. And lead  
us not in - to temp - ta - tion, but de - liv - er us  
from e - vil. For thine is the king - dom, and the power,  
and the glo - ry, for ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

Setting: Plainsong; Adapt. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944)

## Fraction

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.*

*A period of silence is kept*

*Cantor*

1. Je - sus, wis - dom and might - y Lord:  
2. Je - sus, true branch of Jes - se's tree: you take a - way the sins of the world,  
3. De - sire of na - tions, our Em - man - u - el:

1. 2. *All* 3. *All*  
have mer - cy on us, have mer - cy on us. grant us peace, grant us peace.

## Communion

*Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation*

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.

*In the Episcopal Church, all are welcome at the table of the Lord.  
If you have been baptized in any Christian tradition, you may receive communion. If you have not been baptized, you are welcome to receive a blessing. Simply cross your arms over your chest to indicate that you would like to receive a blessing or to indicate that you do not want to receive the bread or wine.*

## Communion Hymn

“Watchman, tell us of the night”

Hymnal #640

## Post-communion Prayer

*Please kneel or stand*

*After Communion, the Celebrant says*

Let us pray

*Celebrant and People*

**Almighty and ever living God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed**

company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace that we may continue in that holy fellowship and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

Sending out of Eucharistic Visitors

*Celebrant* (Name), we send you out to share Communion this week with (Name).  
*People* **May you carry the prayers of all of us as you take this sacrament of Christ’s presence.**  
*Celebrant* May those who receive it from you be strengthened and encouraged in that community we have together in our Lord Jesus Christ.  
*All* **Amen.**

Blessing

Closing Hymn “Come, thou long-expected Jesus” Hymnal #66

Dismissal

*Deacon* Let us bless the Lord.  
*People* **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude “Fugue in G minor” J.S. Bach

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We welcome you in the name of the Risen Lord. Please join us for fellowship in Simpson Hall immediately following the service – coffee, juice, and snacks are available.

## **TODAY'S MINISTERS**

**ACOLYTE/S:** Zar Telfeyan

**ALTAR GUILD:** Kathie Thompson

**FIRST READER:** Leah Nakamura

**SECOND READER:** Marshall Cushman

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:** Hazel Dickfoss

**PARISH PERSON OF THE DAY:** Chris Schatzman

**USHERS:** Becky Turk, Mike Dillon

**CANTOR:** Victoria Vollman

**SUNDAY SCHOOL VOLUNTEER:** Geoff Greeley and Leah Nakamura

**COFFEE HOUR:** St. Monica's Guild

**NEXT WEEK COFFEE HOUR:** Men of the Church

## **THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

For our Parish

### **For those who are Sick or in Need or Homebound**

Bethany, Laandan, Tony, Ron, Gerald, Jean, Olivia, Katie, Sally,  
Heather, Leah, George, Gregory, Andrea, DaMary, Elaine, Monte, John

**Homebound:** Barbara, Jeanne, Bill

### **For the Episcopal Ministries in Racine:**

Congregations of St. Luke's and St. Michael's

Brown Bag Ministry

Diocese of Wisconsin Hospitality Center

Racine Vocational Ministry

The DeKoven Center

### **For the Church: In the World**

Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil

St. Marc's Church & school in Jeanette, Haiti

Cadnet Ednerson and Charline Irossaint

**Thanksgiving for Birthday:** Mary (Dec. 13)

### **Special Offerings**

Cash or checks in the offering that are not designated for regular needs will be given to the following **Racine Vocational Ministries**. Thank you for your generous support of this ministry.

Last Week **Altar flowers** dedication from Geoffrey Greeley was for his father's birthday, he would have been 99 years old.

**Altar flowers** are given by Kathie Thompson to the glory of God and in loving memory of all her deceased family members.

### **Choir for Christmas Eve**

A 'pick-up' choir will gather to sing at the Christmas Eve service. All who enjoy singing are welcome, even if you have never previously sung in a choir. There will a few opportunities to rehearse together:

- Sunday, December 14 following worship
- Sunday, December 21 following worship
- Wednesday, December 24 at 3:15 p.m.

If you have any questions, speak to John Weit after worship or reach him at [john.e.weit@gmail.com](mailto:john.e.weit@gmail.com) or 508-963-7327.

### **Christmas Eve Worship**

Is at 4pm Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup>

*St. Luke's will not have a service on Christmas Day*

### **The Haiti Partnership Bake Sale and Craft Fair is Back!**

Date: Sunday, December 21

Time: Following the 10 am Worship Service

Place: Simpson Hall

The following will be available for sale:

- Baked goods
- Haiti Singing Rooster coffee
- Haitian metal art- including ornaments and Christmas items

All proceeds will go to the Haiti Partnership to support St. Marc's School in Jeanette, Haiti, which includes the school lunch program, health clinic, and clean water initiatives. You can help by providing baked goods to sell, purchasing baked goods, Haitian art or coffee, or donating to the cause as you are able. Thank you!!

## **Christmas Flowers and Music**

The gorgeous poinsettias on the altar at Christmas are only possible through the generosity of parishioners and parish groups. If you would like to make a donation in memory of or in thanksgiving for loved ones, please make out a check to St. Luke's and put "Christmas Flowers" on memo line. Envelopes are available, or you can mail your donation to the parish office. Please be sure to include the names of person(s) and/or the reason (thanksgiving or memorial) the flowers are being given. Donations towards the music program and Christmas singers are also welcome. Please indicate if the donation is for Christmas flowers, Christmas music, or to split between both. Thank you!

### **Estimate of Giving**

If you have not filled out an Estimate of Giving pledge sheet for 2026, and would still like to, they will be available on the clip board by the door to Simpson Hall for the remainder of the year. They can be dropped in the offertory plate. You can also fill one out anytime online by scanning this code:



## **St. Luke's Episcopal Church**

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**The Rt. Rev. Matthew Gunter** – Bishop, Diocese of Wisconsin

**The Rev. Matthew L. Buterbaugh** – Rector [curiouspriest@gmail.com](mailto:curiouspriest@gmail.com)

**The Rev. Dr. Nancy Eggert**, Affiliated Clergy [njeggert@gmail.com](mailto:njeggert@gmail.com)

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**Deacon John Weit** – Director of Music and Organist [john.e.weit@gmail.com](mailto:john.e.weit@gmail.com)

**Yusuf Buckley** – Christian Formation Director

### **VESTRY**

**Cindy Ganzel - Sr. Warden** [cjganzel@yahoo.com](mailto:cjganzel@yahoo.com)

**Marshall Cushman - Jr. Warden** [cushmanct9@gmail.com](mailto:cushmanct9@gmail.com)

**Wally Herman** - Treasurer

Jessica MacPhail, Mick Burke, Mabel DuPriest, Roger Mertins,

Ed McCarthy, Chris Schatzman, Wally Herman

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