

# *St. Luke Lutheran Church*

**"Energized by God's Love"**

Dynamisé par l'amour de Dieu

1025 The Dalles Ave., Sunnyvale, CA 94087 (408) 736-9216  
The Rev. Daniel Tisdell

**Evangelical Lutheran Worship  
Blue Christmas/Longest Night Service**

**December 21, 2024**

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**Dear Members & Guests - Welcome to Worship!**  
God has greatly blessed us with your presence today.  
Thank you for responding to his invitation.

If you have a prayer request, please send it by email or voicemail to Letty in the church office.

# SERVING US THIS EVENING

**Ministers: All of the Members of this Congregation!**

**Pastor:** The Rev. Daniel Tisdel

**Youth Director:** Grant Hannon

**Office Phone Line:** 408-736-9216

**Office Manager:** Letty Lucero

**Sunday School:** Danae Moreno & Emily Bradshaw

**Website:** [stlukechurch.org](http://stlukechurch.org)

## Amazing Creations Preschool

**Preschool Director:** Julianna "Juli" Buccellato

**Phone Line:** 408-730-0365

**Email:** [AmazingCreationsPreschool@yahoo.com](mailto:AmazingCreationsPreschool@yahoo.com)

**Website:** [www.AmazingCreationsPreschool.net](http://www.AmazingCreationsPreschool.net)

**Lector(s):** Pastor Dan Tisdel

**Worship Team:** Andy Wadsworth, Beth Stauter, Wil & Deb Mandac

**Background Worship:** Beth Stauter

**Organist:** Beth Stauter

**Choir Director:** Chris Frye

**Bell Choir Director:** Wil Mandac

**Tech Team:** Andy Wadsworth, Alan Martinez, Bradley Wadsworth, Ethan ElAmir, Justine Skov, Madeleine Gan, Ryan Peters, Tim and Denise Tsang

**Prayer Chain Coordinator:** Marlene Custer

Hearing Assistance devices are available in the Library/AV Room.

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## ORDER OF *WORSHIP*

**PRE-SERVICE MUSIC**

**Beth Stauter**

**PRELUDE**

**Beth Stauter**

**WELCOME**

**Pastor Dan Tisdel**

**SILENT MEDITATION**

**PROCESSION**

**HYMN**

**"WAIT FOR THE LORD"**

**ELW #262**

**INVOCATION**

[P] The grace of Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit  
be with you all

**[C]** *And also with you.*

**HYMN OF LIGHT**

**“JOYOUS LIGHT OF HEAVENLY GLORY”**

**ELW #561**

**THANKSGIVING FOR LIGHT (Spoken)**

**[P]** The Lord be with you.

**[C]** **And also with you.**

**[P]** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God,

**[C]** **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**[P]** We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning you called light into being, and you set lights in the sky to govern night and day. In a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night you led your people into freedom. Enlighten our darkness by the light of your Christ; may your Word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path; for you are merciful, and you love your whole creation, and with all your creatures we give you glory, through your Son Jesus Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**[C]** **Amen.**

**PSALM 27**

**Read By Pastor Dan Tisdell**

The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? When evildoers assail me to devour my flesh — my adversaries and foes — they shall stumble and fall. Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war rise up against me, yet I will be confident. One thing I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after: to live in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in his temple. For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will set me high on a rock. Now my head is lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing and make melody to the LORD. Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud, be gracious to me and answer me! "Come," my heart says, "seek his face!" Your face, LORD, do I seek. Do not hide your face from me. Do not turn your servant away in anger, you who have been my help. Do not cast me off, do not forsake me, O God of my salvation! If my father and mother forsake me, the LORD will take me up. Teach me your way, O LORD, and lead me on a level path because of my enemies. Do not give me up to the will of my adversaries, for false witnesses have risen against me, and they are breathing out violence. I believe that I shall see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living. Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**[P]** Let us pray...

**[C]** Lord God, our light and our salvation, grant that your servants who seek your face in times of trouble may see your goodness in the land of the living, and

that we may be set safely on the rock of our faith, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

## PEACE OF CHRIST

# GOD ENCOUNTERS HIS PEOPLE THROUGH HIS WORD

### 1<sup>st</sup> Reading – Isaiah 9:2-7

Read By Pastor Dan Tisdell

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.

### HYMN:

***“O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL”***  
(vs. 1-3)

**ELW #257**

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading – Isaiah 40: 1-11

Read By Pastor Dan Tisdell

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever.

Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a



## **Litany of Remembrance**

We light a candle to remember those whom we have loved and lost. We pause to remember clearly, their faces, their voices, their bodies, their characters, their legacies. (The first candle is lighted) (Pause)

We embrace and give thanks for the memories that bind them to us in this season of expectation, when all Creation waits for the Light.

**All: We remember them with love.**

### *A period of silent reflection*

We light a candle to remember the pain of loss: loss of relationships, loss of trust, loss of jobs, loss of health, loss of faith, the loss of joy. (The second candle is lighted.) (Pause)

We acknowledge and embrace the pain of the past, O God, and we offer it to You, asking that into our wounded hearts and open hands You will place the gift of peace, shalom.

**All: We remember that through You all things are possible.**

### *A period of silent reflection*

We light this candle to remember ourselves this Christmas time. We pause and remember the past weeks, months, and for some of us years, that have been heavy with our burdens. (The third candle is lighted.) (Pause)

We accept and lay before you, God, the sharpness of memory, the sadness and grief, the hurt and fear, the anger and pain. We accept and lay before you the ways we feel we have fallen short, and the times we have spent blaming ourselves, and you, for all that we have suffered. We accept and lay before you the time we have walked alone, in darkness; and in knowledge of our own mortality.

**All: We remember that though we have journeyed far, and that, while lost, we may have turned away from the light, the light itself has not failed.**

### *A period of silent reflection*

We light this fourth candle to remember faith, the gift of light and hope that God offers to us in the stories of Christmas, which also began in abandonment, insecurity, and humbleness, in a time of war and in a poor stable. (The fourth candle is lighted.) (Pause)

We remember that the loving God who kept the light shining in the temple and who came to share this life with us, promises us comfort and peace.

**All: We remember the One who shares our burdens, who shows us the way to the Light, and who journeys with us into all our tomorrows.**

*A period of silent reflection*

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

[C] 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, forever and ever.  
Amen.

**CANDLE LIGHTING HYMN "SILENT NIGHT, HOLY NIGHT"**

**ELW #281**

**BLESSING**

[P] The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✝ give you peace.

[C] **Amen.**

**THE DISMISSAL**

[P] Our worship continues; our service is just begun. Go in peace to love and serve The Lord.

[C] **THANKS BE TO GOD!**

**POSTLUDE:**

**Beth Stauter**