

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION *in unison*

Drew Scoggins

God of grace and glory,  
we thank you that you judge us not by the perfection of our actions,  
but by our readiness to live boldly by faith.  
Help us as individuals and as a congregation,  
to trust you and follow where you lead,  
that in Christ your name may be glorified in all the earth. Amen.

**INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP**

*If you would like to become a follower of Jesus Christ, or if you are interested in joining St. Luke's United Methodist Church, we would love to talk to you about what that means. Please visit the Connection Desk after the service to meet with a member of our Hospitality Team and learn more.*

**\*HYMN OF COMMITMENT**

2190 *Bring Forth the Kingdom* BRING FORTH THE KINGDOM

You are salt for the earth, O people: Salt for the Kingdom of God!  
Share the flavor of life, O people: Life in the Kingdom of God!

*Refrain*

Bring forth the Kingdom of mercy, bring forth the Kingdom of peace;  
Bring forth the Kingdom of justice, bring forth the City of God!

You are a light on the hill, O people: Light for the City of God!  
Shine so holy and bright, O people Shine for the Kingdom of God!  
*Refrain*

You are a seed of the Word, O people: Bring forth the Kingdom of God!  
Seeds of mercy and seeds of justice, grow in the Kingdom of God!  
*Refrain*

We are a blest and a pilgrim people: Bound for the Kingdom of God!  
Love our journey and love our homeland: Love is the Kingdom of God!  
*Refrain*

**\*BENEDICTION**

Rev. Cliff Ritter

**CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

Leader: "Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?'"

People: "And I said, 'Here am I; send me!'"

**POSTLUDE**

*Finale Jubilante*

Willan

At places marked \* those who are able may stand.

**What's Happening at St. Luke's**

**Family Reunion – Church Conference**

Today at 4–5:30 p.m. | Fellowship Hall and Online

Join us as we celebrate what God has done in 2023 and look forward to ministry in 2024. We'll vote on two candidates for ministry, our 2024 Operating Budget, the new governance slate and hear more updates from our leadership.

**January Collection**

Collection: Bring non-perishable foods for Christian Community Service Center's (CCSC). Specific needs: hearty soups, peanut butter, canned meats, cereal and canned vegetables/fruit. Drop off donations in the Gathering Room.

**Scripture + Shared | Starts Week of January 29**

Join us to learn lessons from the life and letters of Peter. Email Katie Brown (kbrown@StLukesMethodist.org) to find a group or start a new one!

**Welcome to worship at St. Luke's!**  
Two ways to let us know you are here:

**1. Is this your first visit?**

Please text *iamnew* to 97000 to let us know you are worshipping with us today!

**2. Check in on the St. Luke's App.**

If you don't have the app installed on your phone, you can download it at: [StLukesMethodist.org/app](http://StLukesMethodist.org/app).

**Sermon Notes**

*Gardeners of God*

First in the Series, "Love Our City"

The garden in the city

The rhythm of worship

A pool or a spring?

The love our city challenge

**Leading in Worship Today:** Dr. Tom Pace; Rev. Cliff Ritter; Drew Scoggins, Pastoral Intern.

**Musicians:** Randy Murrow, Associate Director of Music and Fine Arts; Victoria Shorokhova, Organ Scholar; Barbara Bamberg, Accompanist; St. Cecilia.

**Acolytes:** Sabra Ahlquist, Marion Tallon.

**The altar flowers are dedicated to the glory of God** and given in celebration of the baptism of Sebastian Gordon Van Hoef by his parents, Alia and Mitchell Van Hoef; in loving memory of Jan Wagner, by her children, Kim Neuendorff, Susan Walton, David and John Wagner and their families, and Don and Sara Eggleston Wagner; and in loving memory of Philip Gready by his siblings, Donna, Maureen, Jeanie, Michael, Ellen, Pat & Amy.



**St. Luke's**

United Methodist Church

Dr. Tom Pace, Senior Pastor

713-622-5710 | [StLukesMethodist.org](http://StLukesMethodist.org)



St. Luke's United Methodist Church

January 28, 2024 | 8:30 a.m.

**PRELUDE** *Intermezzo, Op. 167, No. 7* Rheinberger

**\*HYMN OF PRAISE**  
139 *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty* LOBE DEN HERREN

**\*THE APOSTLES' CREED** UMH #881 Drew Scoggins

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth;  
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**\*GLORIA PATRI** UMH #70 MEINEKE

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.**

**WELCOME** Dr. Tom Pace

**SCRIPTURE READING** Rev. Cliff Ritter

Isaiah 58:6-12

<sup>6</sup>Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? <sup>7</sup>Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them and not to hide yourself from your own kin? <sup>8</sup>Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you; the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard. <sup>9</sup>Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, "Here I am." If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, <sup>10</sup>if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. <sup>11</sup>The Lord will guide you continually and satisfy your needs in parched places and make your bones strong, and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water whose waters never fail. <sup>12</sup>Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

**SCRIPTURE RESPONSE**

The Word of God for the people of God.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**CHORAL CALL TO PRAYER**

**MORNING PRAYER** Rev. Cliff Ritter

**SERMON** *Gardeners of God* Dr. Tom Pace  
First in the Series, "Love Our City"

**HOUSTON PROJECT RCIPIENTS**

**OFFERTORY** *The Lord Is My Shepherd* Will Todd  
St. Cecilia

The Lord is my Shepherd; therefore can I lack nothing.  
He makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.  
Though I walk through the valley of death, I will fear no evil;  
for you are with me; your rod and your staff comfort me.  
Surely your goodness and loving mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord.

*As an alternative to the offering plate, text gift amount to: 832-669-5500.*

**\*DOXOLOGY** UMH #95 OLD 100TH

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

**INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION** Rev. Cliff Ritter

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Holy and awesome God, we stand in your presence  
filled with regret for our many sins and failings.  
Though there is greatness in us, and a deep longing for goodness,  
we have refused to hear your voice  
calling us to rise to the full height of our humanity.  
For there is weakness in us, as well as strength.  
We do not care to look within,  
and are unwilling to look beyond at those who need our help.  
O God, we are too weak to walk unaided.  
Be with us as a strong and wise friend,  
and teach us to walk by the light of your truth. Amen.**

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE AND PARDON**

The Lord God is merciful and gracious,  
endlessly patient, loving, and true,  
showing mercy to thousands,  
forgiving iniquity, transgression, and sin, and granting pardon.  
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

**In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Glory to God. Amen.**

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**  
Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them up to the Lord.**  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*...the pastor continues*

we praise your name and join their unending hymn: Jim Roman

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. Bles-sed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na  
in the high - est.

*...the pastor continues*

...in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is ri - sen; Christ will come a - gain.

*the pastor continues*

All honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

A - men A - men A - men

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**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. Amen.**

**\*HYMN OF PREPARATION**

430 *O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee*  
MARYTON

**SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP**

*We are guests at Christ's table which is open to all. Receive the wafer in your hands, and the server will say, "The body of Christ, given for you," and your response could be, "Amen." Then dip the wafer into the juice and the server will say, "The blood of Christ, given for you," and again you may respond, "Amen."*

*Gluten-free wafers and pre-filled cups are available. Indicate your need to your server. Offerings left at the communion rail will be directed to the Member Care Fund, which aids our friends in need.*

**MUSIC DURING COMMUNION**

462 *'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus* TRUST IN JESUS