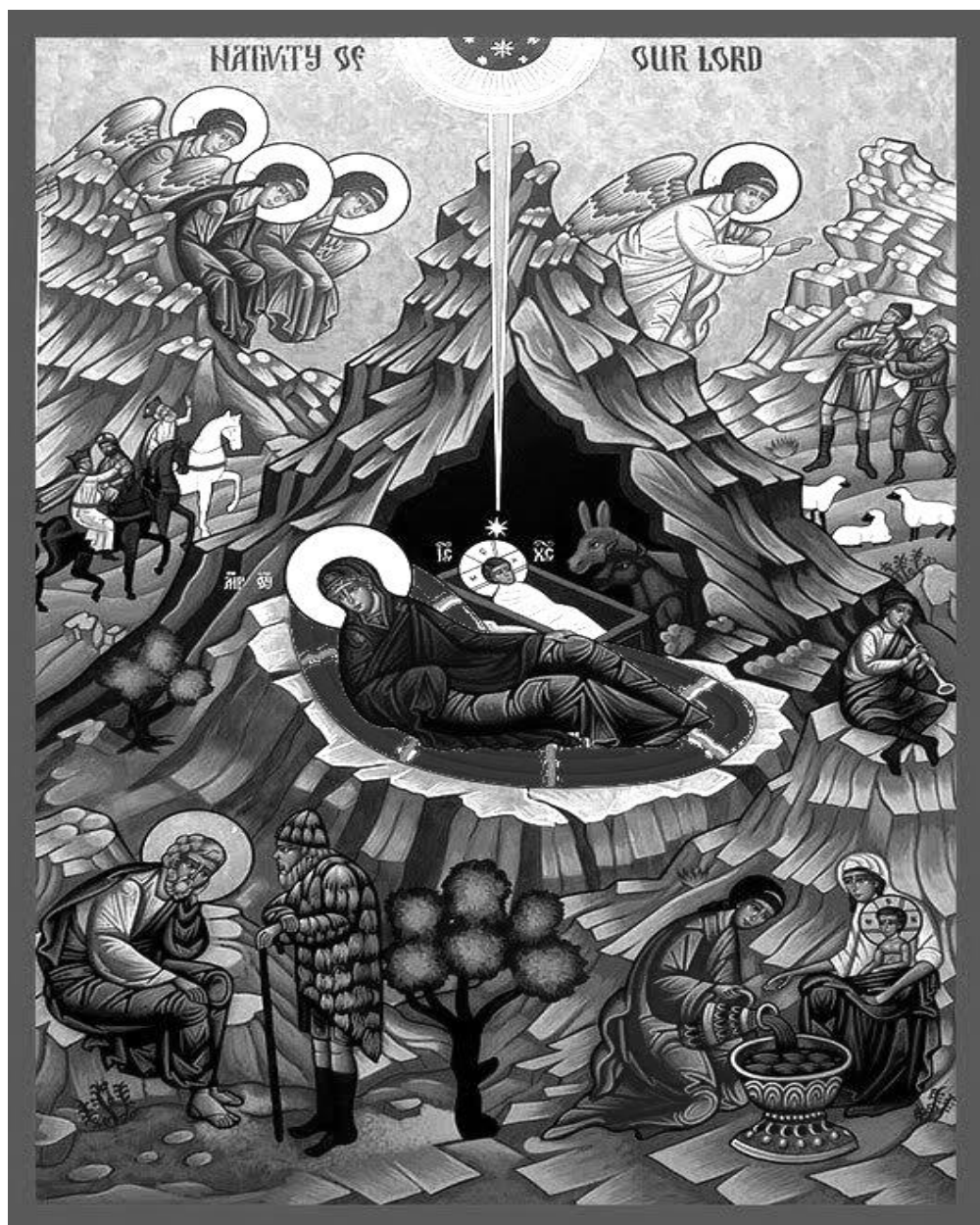


The Feast of the Nativity

St. Luke's, Edmonton



As God's dearly loved children we are invited by our Father God to join Him in an exciting journey. As we live and love as His missional disciples, we experience God transforming us more and more into the fullness of who we are and living the life He has for us. Our Mission Action Plan is designed to help us live and grow in this way. But we can't do it without Jesus!! So spending time in prayer, waiting upon His Word and declaring His praise is vital. Which brings us to Christmas!

During this season of the nativity we remember and celebrate that God came to us in Jesus Christ so that we can become adopted children through the Spirit. We have been invited into a journey towards God. God invites us to grow closer to Him but He first came to us, welcoming and adopting us as His children. With this in mind, and focused on the goal of becoming a community that exists for others reflecting how God exists for us in and through Jesus Christ, may your time of prayer be a place where Jesus meets you.

So be blessed as you pray and read, to the glory of God and that you and the entire St Luke's Church family might be a blessing to others.

Introductory Response

Blessed are you, O Christ, Son of God,
**you were before time began
and came into the world to save us.**

You shine with the Father's love
and illumine the whole universe.

Blessed are you, Son of Mary;
born a child, you shared our humanity.

Blessed are you, Son of David;
born to rule, you received gifts from the wise men.

Blessed are you, Son of Man;
baptized by John, you saved us from ourselves.

Blessed are you, heavenly King;
**teaching and preaching, healing and comforting,
you proclaimed the kingdom.**

Let heaven and earth shout their praise.
**With all the voices of heaven
we celebrate the coming of our Saviour.**

Let heaven and earth shout their praise.
**With all the creatures on earth
we sing and dance at his birth.**
Praise and honour and glory to you, O Lord most high.

Dear friends in Christ,
as we prepare to worship almighty God,
let us with penitent and obedient hearts
confess our sins,
that we may obtain forgiveness
by his infinite goodness and mercy.

**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 neighbours 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.**

Jesus invites us:

“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.” (Matt. 11:28)

God promises that

“If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” (1John 1:9)

Therefore we pray:

**Almighty God have mercy upon us,
pardon and deliver us from all our sins,
confirm and strengthen us in all goodness,
and keep us in eternal life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

One of the following Prayers

Venite (Psalm 95.1–7)

Come, let us sing to the Lord; *
let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.
Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving *
and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.
For the Lord is a great God, *
and a great king above all gods.
In his hand are the caverns of the earth, *
and the heights of the hills are his also.
The sea is his for he made it, *
and his hands have moulded the dry land.
Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, *
and kneel before the Lord our maker.
For he is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture and the
sheep of his hand. *
Oh, that today you would
hearken to his voice!

Jubilate (Psalm 100)

Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands; *
serve the Lord with gladness
and come before his presence with a song.
Know this: The Lord himself is God; *
he himself has made us, and we are his;
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.
Enter his gates with thanksgiving;
go into his courts with praise; *
give thanks to him and call upon his name.
For the Lord is good;
his mercy is everlasting; *
and his faithfulness endures from age to age.

Reading and Hearing of Scripture

Psalm as indicated in the following chart followed by **OT reading**
and the **NT reading**

Day	Psalm	OT	NT
Dec. 26	P. 122	Is. 2:1-5	Eph. 1:1-10
Dec. 27	P. 72	Is. 11:1-10	Eph. 1:11-23
Dec. 28	P. 23	Is. 25:1-9	Eph. 2:1-10
Dec. 29	P. 118	Is. 26:1-6	Eph. 2:11-22
Dec. 30	P. 85	Is. 35:1-10	Eph. 3:1-13
Dec. 31	P. 96	Is. 40:1-11	Eph. 3:13-21
Jan. 1	P. 27	Is. 40:12-24	Eph. 4:1-16
Jan. 2	P. 103	Is. 40:25-31	Eph. 4:17-32
Jan. 3	P. 145	Is. 41:13-20	Eph. 5:1-20
Jan. 4	P. 72	Is. 45:18-25	Eph. 5:21-33
Jan. 5	P. 30	Is. 54:1-10	Eph. 6:1-17
Jan. 6	P. 147	Is. 61:1-11	Eph. 6:18-24

We respond to the reading and hearing of Scripture with
1) **Confession of Faith** and 2) **Prayer**

1) The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.**

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again
to judge the living 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.**

2) Prayer

This litany is a framework to aid, guide, and structure your prayer.

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

For all people in their daily life and work;

For our families, friends, and neighbours, and for all those who are alone.

For this community, our country, and the world;

For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;

For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

For all who proclaim the gospel, and all who seek the truth.

For Jane our bishop, and for all bishops and other ministers;

For all who serve God in his Church.

For our own needs and those of others. **(Add your own petitions)**

Hear us, Lord; **For your mercy is great.**

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

(Add your own thanksgivings)

We will exalt you, O God our king;

And praise your name for ever and ever.

Lord, let your loving kindness be upon them;

Who put their trust in you.

Gracious God,
you have heard the prayers of your faithful people;
you know our needs before we ask,
and our ignorance in asking.
Grant our requests as may be best for us.
This we ask in the name of your Son
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Depending on your situation, you might find this general thanksgiving or intercession helpful.

General Thanksgiving

Accept, O Lord, our thanks and praise
for all you have done for us.
We thank you for the splendour of the whole creation,
for the beauty of this world, for the wonder of life,
and for the mystery of love.
We thank you for the blessing of family and friends,
and for the loving care
which surrounds us on every side.
We thank you for setting us tasks
which demand our best efforts,
and for leading us to accomplishments
which satisfy and delight us.
We thank you also for those disappointments and failures
that lead us to acknowledge our dependence on you alone.
Above all, we thank you for your Son Jesus Christ;
for the truth of his word and the example of his life;
for his steadfast obedience,
by which he overcame temptation;
for his dying, through which he overcame death;
for his rising to life again,
in which we are raised to the life of your kingdom.
Grant us the gift of your Spirit,
that we may know Christ and make him known;
and through him, at all times and in all places,
may give thanks to you in all things. Amen

General Intercession

Remember, Lord, your people bowed before you, and those who are absent through age, sickness, or any other cause. Care for the infants, guide the young, support the aged, inspire the faint-hearted, and bring the wandering to your fold. Journey with the travellers, encourage the oppressed, defend the widows, deliver the captives, heal the sick. Strengthen all who are in tribulation, necessity, or distress. Remember for good those who love us, and those who hate us, and those who have asked us, unworthy as we are, to pray for them. Remember especially, Lord, those whom we have forgotten. For you are the helper of the helpless, the saviour of the lost, the refuge of the wanderer, the healer of the sick. You know the need of all and have heard each prayer: save us in your merciful loving-kindness and eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Collect (One of the following)

1. Eternal God, you create us by your power and redeem us by your love. Guide and strengthen us by your Spirit, that we may give ourselves today in love and service to one another and to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

2. Heavenly Father, in you we live and move and have our being. Guide and govern us by your Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our life we may not forget you, but may remember that we are ever walking in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

3. Most holy God, the source of all good desires, all right judgements, and all just works, give to us your servants that peace which the world cannot give, so that our minds may be fixed on doing your will, and that, freed from fear of our enemies, we may pass our time in rest and quietness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

4. Be present, O merciful God, and protect us through the hours of this night, so that we who are wearied by the changes and chances of this life may rest in your eternal changelessness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

And now, as our Saviour 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,
the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.
Alleluia**

**May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all
evermore. Amen.**