

# ILLUMINATIONS

Christmas Day, First Proper, December 24, 2014

## for the First Lesson

The prophet's hymn foretells the coming of a new ruler who will establish a glorious kingdom and reign in peace forever.

### A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah 9: 2-7

*Reader conclude with: The word of the Lord.*

*Congregation: Thanks be to God.*

## for the Second Lesson

Jesus the Savior has offered himself to free us from our sins. As we await the appearance of God's glory, we are to be disciplined in doing his will.

### A reading from the Letter of Paul to Titus 2: 11-14

*Reader conclude with: The word of the Lord.*

*Congregation: Thanks be to God.*

## for the Gospel Lesson

Mary gives birth to Jesus in Bethlehem. An angel announces that this birth is the fulfillment of many centuries of prophecy.

### A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew 2: 1-20)

*Congregation: Praise to you Lord Christ.*



**A Special Thank You to  
Willdra Ruzanski**

**For Playing the Organ  
During the Advent Season**

# Christmas Eve

December 24, 2015

5:30 a.m. Worship Service



## St. Luke's Episcopal Mission

PO Box 208, 201 S. Third St.

Westcliffe, Colorado 81252

719-783-2477 [www.stlukeswestcliffe.org](http://www.stlukeswestcliffe.org)

Bishop:	The Right Rev. Robert O'Neill
Canon Missioner:	The Rev. Canon Lou Blanchard
Supply Priest:	The Rev. Dr. Winnie Mitchell
Pastoral Care Priest:	The Rev. Dr. David Crippen
Bishop's Committee:	
Junior Warden:	Janet Smith (Interim Sr. Warden)
Treasurer:	Nancy Taylor
Co-Treasurer:	Marci Gregg
Clerk:	Ann Barthrop
Member:	Cathy LoPresti
Member:	Nat McKenney
Member:	Sudzy Benasch
Music:	Willdra Ruzanski

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

## Holy Eucharist: Rite Two

Processional	<b>Blue Hymnal 87</b>
<i>The Lighting of the Christmas Candle</i>	<b>Blue Hymnal 56 v 5</b>
Acclamation	BCP 355
Gloria	<b>Blue Hymnal S280</b>
Collect of the Day	
The Old Testament and Psalm Reading	
The New Testament Reading	
Gradual	<b>Blue Hymnal 79</b>
The Gospel Reading	
<b>Homily: The Rev. Dr. Winnie Mitchell</b>	
Nicene Creed (stand)	BCP 358
The Prayers of the People	
Confession of Sin	BCP 360
Absolution	
The Peace	
Announcements/Blessings	
Offertory	<b>Special Organ Music</b>

## The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharist Prayer C	BCP 369
The Lord's Prayer	BCP 364
Agnus Dei	
Communion of the People	<b>Blue Hymnal 83</b>
(all baptized Christians are invited to the Lord's Table)	
One Bread One Body	O Christe Domine Jesu
(Inside front of blue hymnal)	(Inside back of blue hymnal)
Post Communion Prayer	BCP 366
Procession to Serve	<b>Blue Hymnal 100</b>
Final Blessing (remain seated)	

*We are glad you joined us for worship today!  
Please join us in the Fellowship Hall for Refreshments!*

***A Christmas Prayer***  
*by Robert Louis Stevenson*

Loving Father,  
Help us remember the birth of Jesus,  
that we may share in the song of the angels,  
the gladness of the shepherds,  
and worship of the wise men.

Close the door of hate  
and open the door of love all over the world.  
Let kindness come with every gift  
and good desires with every greeting.  
Deliver us from evil by the blessing  
which Christ brings,  
and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.

May the Christmas morning  
make us happy to be thy children,  
and Christmas evening bring us to our beds  
with grateful thoughts,  
forgiving and forgiven,  
for Jesus' sake. *Amen*

***At Christmas***  
*by Edgar Albert Guest*

A man is at his finest towards the finish of the year;  
He is almost what he should be when the Christmas season is here;  
Then he's thinking more of others than he's thought the months before,  
And the laughter of his children is a joy worth toiling for.  
He is less a selfish creature than at any other time;  
When the Christmas spirit rules him he comes close to the sublime.

When it's Christmas man is bigger and is better in his part;  
He is keener for the service that is prompted by the heart.  
All the petty thoughts and narrow seem to vanish for awhile  
And the true reward he's seeking is the glory of a smile.  
Then for others he is toiling and somehow it seems to me  
That at Christmas he is almost what God wanted him to be.

If I had to paint a picture of a man I think I'd wait  
Till he'd fought his selfish battles and had put aside his hate.  
I'd not catch him at his labors when his thoughts are all of self,  
On the long days and the dreary when he's striving for himself.  
I'd not take him when he's sneering, when he's scornful or depressed,  
But I'd look for him at Christmas when he's shining at his best.

Man is ever in a struggle and he's oft misunderstood;  
There are days the worst that's in him is the master of the good,  
But at Christmas kindness rules him and he puts himself aside  
And his petty hates are vanquished and his heart is opened wide.  
Oh, I don't know how to say it, but somehow it seems to me  
That at Christmas man is almost what God sent him here to be.