



St. Stephen's Lutheran Church

HOLY COMMUNION

Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 18, 2022 • 9:30 am

You are welcome here! As a Reconciling in Christ congregation of the ELCA, we believe that the gospel is God's gift to all people, shared unconditionally and without regard to race, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, socio-economic or family status, age, physical or mental abilities, outward appearance, or religious affiliation. We seek racial equality and justice. In this way, we live into the truth written in Ephesians (2:14)—that Christ breaks down the dividing walls between us and makes us one.

Masks are not required for those who are fully vaccinated and boosted. If you are wearing a mask, you may lower it to receive communion.

Theme of the Day

We long for Immanuel, God with us.

Gathering

Prelude

Welcome

Joys & Concerns

**** Confession & Forgiveness**

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,
who alone does wondrous things.

**Blessed be God's name forever.
Amen.**

Beloved, now is the time to wake from sleep.
Let us confront our sins,
and confess them to the one who is merciful and just.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of new beginnings,
we confess that we have not welcomed your holy reign.
We have strayed from your paths.
We prepare for war instead of peace.
We dishonor one another and your creation.
Purify us with your refining fire
and set us again on your way of love,
that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance,
and welcome your coming among us.
Amen.

People of God,
a new thing is growing in our midst,
a tender branch, a living sign.
By water and the Spirit you are joined to this wonder.
You have put on ☩ Christ,
and your sins have been washed away.
Rejoice in the way of the Lord.

Amen.

** Please stand as you are able. **Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.**

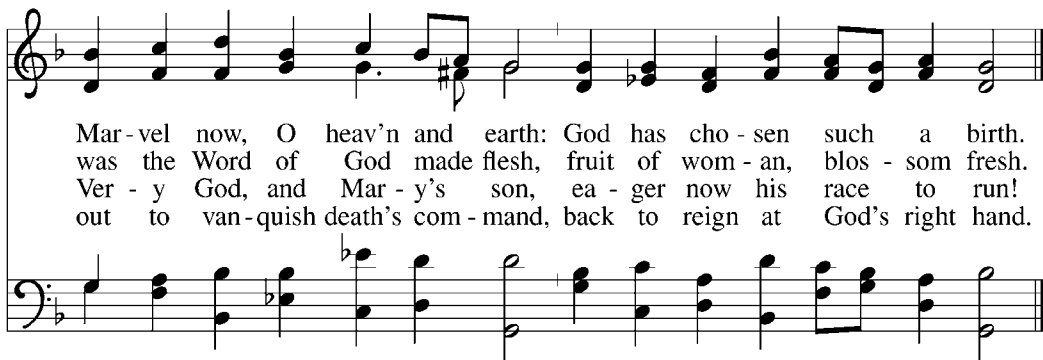
** Gathering Hymn

Savior of the Nations, Come Verses 1-3, 6

ELW 263



1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come; vir - gin's son, make here your home.
2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, but the mys - tic Breath of God,
3 Won - drous birth—oh, won - drous child—from his throne, a vir - gin mild!
4 From God's heart the Sav - ior speeds, back to God his path - way leads;



Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth: God has cho - sen such a birth.
was the Word of God made flesh, fruit of wom - an, blos - som fresh.
Ver - y God, and Mar - y's son, ea - ger now his race to run!
out to van - quish death's com - mand, back to reign at God's right hand.

5 Now your manger, shining bright,
hallows night with newborn light.
Night cannot this light subdue;
let our faith shine ever new.

6 Praise we sing to Christ the Lord,
virgin's son, incarnate Word!
To the holy Trinity
praise we sing eternally!

** Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

** Please stand as you are able. **Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.**

** Kyrie



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - va - tion, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well - being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

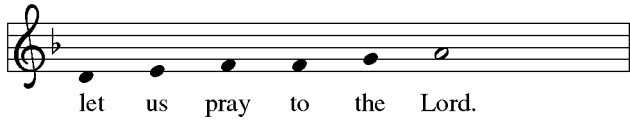


Lord, have mer - cy.

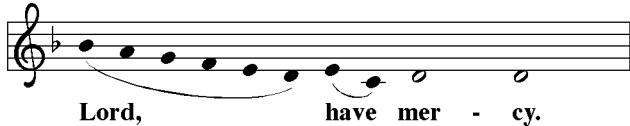


For this ho - ly house, and for all who of - fer here their wor - ship and praise,

** Please stand as you are able. Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.



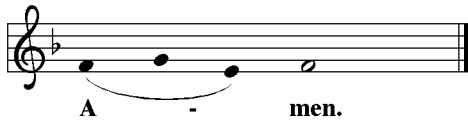
let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men.

**** Prayer of the Day**

*Assisting Minister leads the prayer of the day and the assembly responds: **Amen.***

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Word

God speaks to us in scripture, preaching and song.

First Reading

Isaiah 7:10-16 (p. 623)

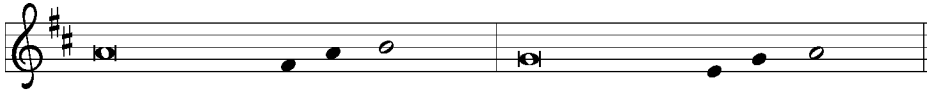
Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Lighting the Advent Wreath

*The assisting minister lights the fourth candle. The assembly responds **Amen.***

**** Please stand as you are able. Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.**



¹Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph | like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned up- | on the cherubim.

²**In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, | and Manasseh,**
stir up your strength and | come to help us.

³Restore | us, O God;
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.

⁴**O LORD | God of hosts,**
how long will your anger fume when your | people pray?

Refrain



⁵You have fed them with the | bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of | tears to drink.

⁶**You have made us the derision | of our neighbors,**
and our enemies laugh | us to scorn.

⁷Restore us, O | God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.

¹⁷**Let your hand be upon the one at | your right hand,**
the one you have made so strong | for yourself.

¹⁸And so will we never turn a- | way from you;
give us life, that we may call up- | on your name.

¹⁹**Restore us, O LORD | God of hosts;**
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.

** Please stand as you are able. Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.

Refrain



Let your face shine up - on us, and we shall be saved.

Second Reading

Romans 1:1-7 (p. 1024)

Word of God. Word of Life.
Thanks be to God.

**** Gospel Acclamation**



Al-le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Repeat alleluia



Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

**** Gospel**

Matthew 1:18-25 (p. 877)

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.
The Gospel of the Lord.

Glory to you, O Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

**** Gospel Acclamation**

Please see above.

Sermon

The Rev. Mark Walters

** Please stand as you are able. **Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.**

** Hymn of the Day

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

ELW 265

1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,
2 "For know a bless - ed moth - er thou shalt be,
3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;
4 Of her, Em - man - u - el, the Christ, was born

with wings as drift - ed snow, with eyes as flame:
all gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee;
"To me be as it pleas - eth God," she said.
in Beth - le - hem all on a Christ - mas morn,

"All hail to thee, O low - ly maid - en Mar - y,
thy son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,
"My soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy God's ho - ly name."
and Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say:

most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."
most high - ly fa - vored la - dy." **Glo - ri - a!**
Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy,
"Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."

** Please stand as you are able. Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.

**** Apostles' Creed**

Let us love one another, that with one mind we may confess the Holy Trinity, one in essence and undivided.

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
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,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come 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.**

**** Prayers of the People**

Each portion of the prayer ends with:

Response:	Lord, in your mercy,	receive our prayer.
	God, in your mercy,	hear our prayer.

Meal

Sharing of the Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Offering

Each week we give thanks to God for things that God has given us: our selves, our time, and our possessions. A financial donation to the church is never a requirement, but is freely given to support the work of the congregation in the community. For your convenience, St. Stephen's offers the opportunity to give on-line through text message. Type "Funds" to 302-257-6155 to make any donations.

**** Please stand as you are able. Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.**

** Offering Song

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel Verse 4

ELW 257



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things
3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on
4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;
Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law
tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joice! Re-joice!
in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.
and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



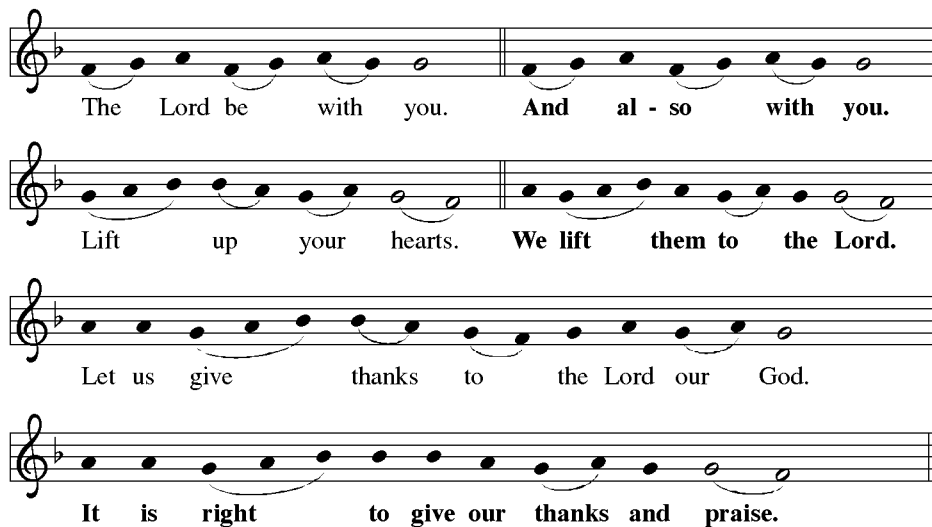
Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

** Offering Prayer

Assisting Minister leads the offering prayer and the assembly responds: Amen.

** Please stand as you are able. Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.

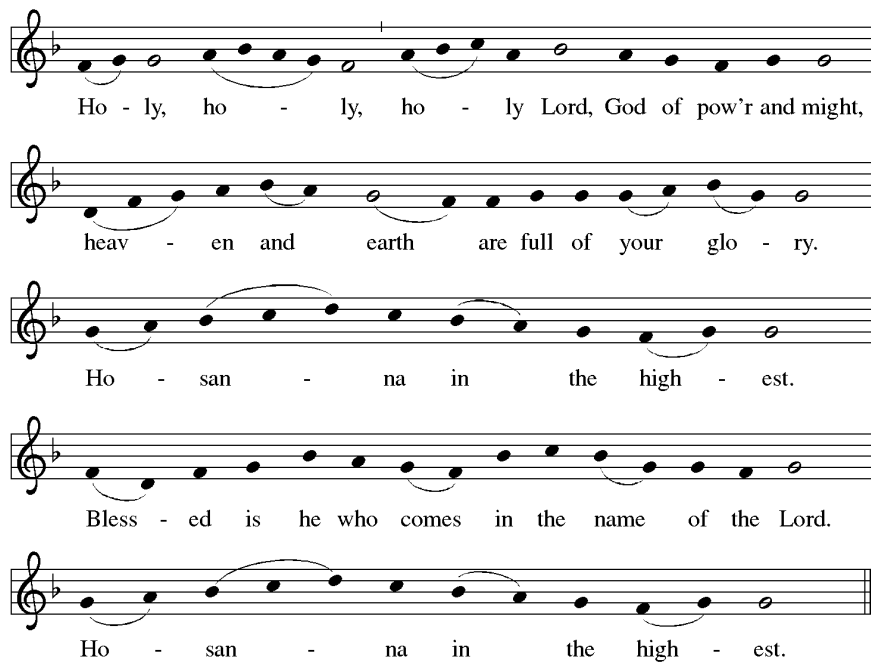
** Dialogue



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

** Preface

** Holy, Holy, Holy



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Ho - san - na in the high - est.

** Please stand as you are able. Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.

** Thanksgiving at the Table

Holy One, the beginning and the end, ,Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup,We look with hope for his coming.
Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit.Bring the gift of peace on earth.
Come, Holy Spirit.

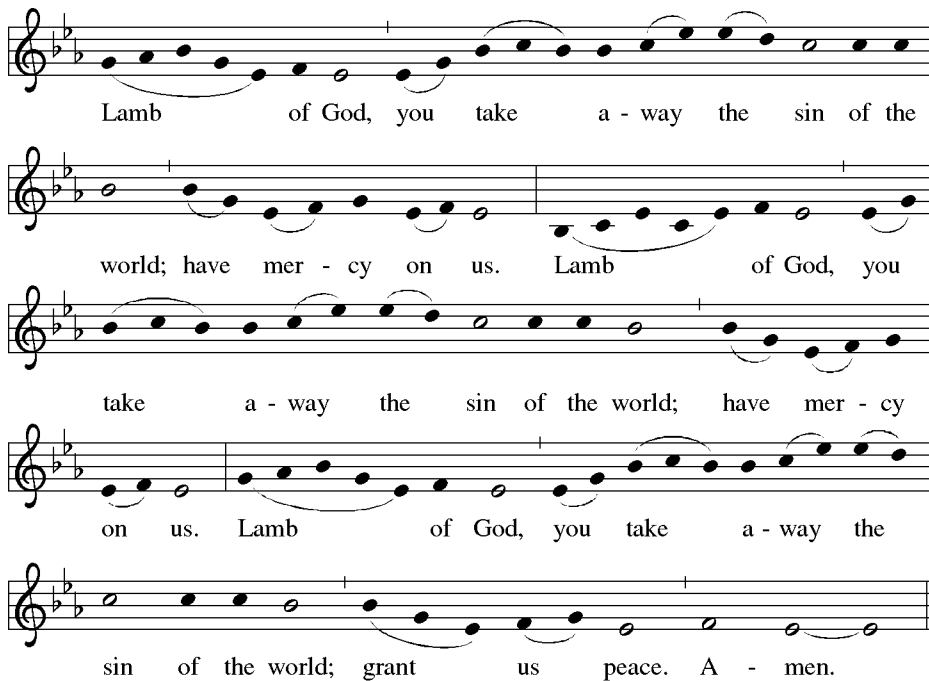
All praise and glory are yours.... one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

** Lord's Prayer

As we pray the Lord's Prayer together, we invite you to choose which version and language in which to pray. Several versions are printed on the laminated card for you.

Invitation to Communion

Lamb of God



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you
take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy
on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace. A - men.

** Please stand as you are able. Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.

Communion

As Lutheran Christians we believe the words of Jesus, "This is my body, this is my blood given for you for the forgiveness of sin." If you desire to receive this gift, you are welcome to commune here. All who do not commune may come for a blessing. The ushers will invite the assembly from the front row to the back row to come to the chancel to receive communion from the pastor via the center aisle. Once you receive your communion, please use the side aisles to return to your pew. Please be sure to discard your cups in the trash bin on your way out of the church - please do not leave used communion cups in the pews or pew racks. If you prefer juice, please let the assisting minister know.

Communion Instrumental

Communion Blessing

Post Communion Prayer

Together, let us pray.

Faithful God,

**in this meal you have remembered your mercy,
bringing heaven to earth in the body and blood of Christ.**

**As we wait for the day when all your promises will be fulfilled,
sustain us and strengthen us by this holy mystery.**

**Guide us toward your promised future,
coming to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.**

Amen.

Announcements

** Please stand as you are able. Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.

Sending

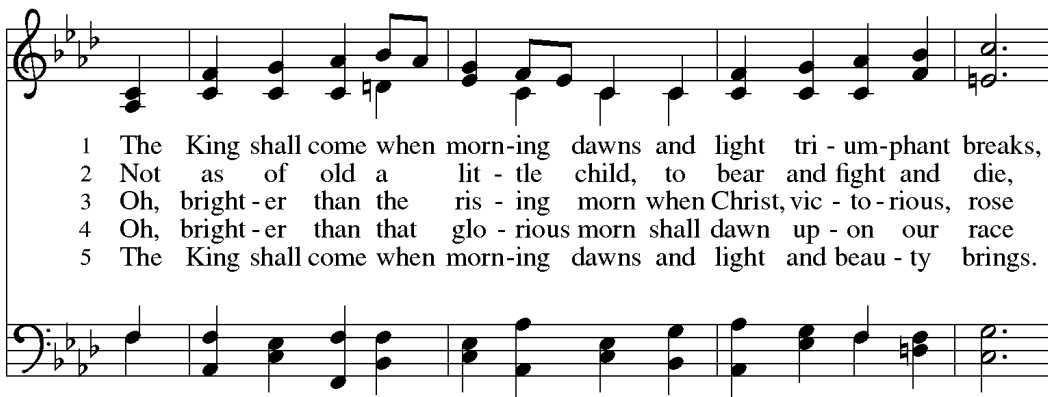
We are sent into the world to serve.

** Blessing

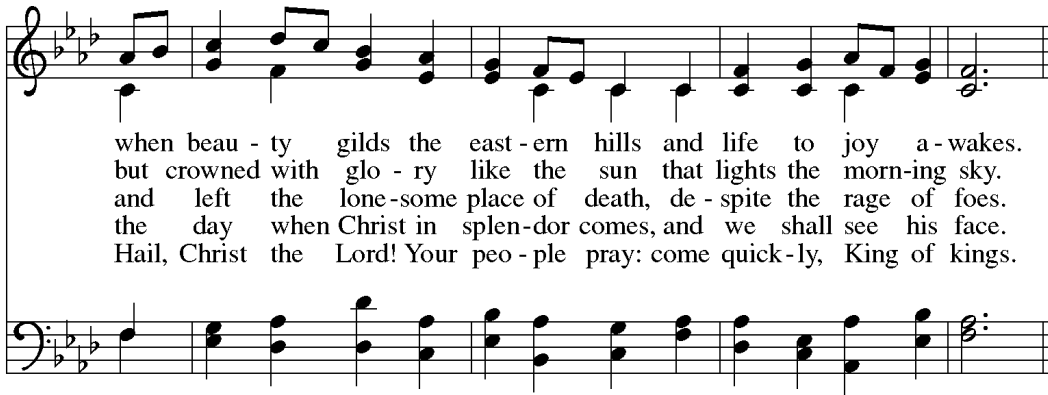
** Sending Hymn

The King Shall Come

ELW 260



1 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light tri - um-phant breaks,
2 Not as of old a lit - tle child, to bear and fight and die,
3 Oh, bright - er than the ris - ing morn when Christ, vic - to - rious, rose
4 Oh, bright - er than that glo - rious morn shall dawn up - on our race
5 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light and beau - ty brings.



when beau - ty gilds the east - ern hills and life to joy a - wakes.
but crowned with glo - ry like the sun that lights the morn-ing sky.
and left the lone - some place of death, de - spite the rage of foes.
the day when Christ in splen - dor comes, and we shall see his face.
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your peo - ple pray: come quick - ly, King of kings.

** Please stand as you are able. Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.

**** Dismissal**

Go in peace. Christ is near.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

*Chancel flowers are given by Richard & Catherine Stouffer
in memory of our parents Earle and Lois Stouffer*

Enjoy today's service? Visit our Facebook page and invite a friend, comment, or leave a review. Please text the word "welcome" to 855-965-5200 to be added to our email list. May God go with you today and everyday.

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**** Please stand as you are able. Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.**

Participants in Today's Service

Pastor:

The Rev. Mark Walters

Music Director:

Claudio Espejo

Assisting Minister/Lector:

Karen Weber

Usher:

John Rodammer

Altar Guild:

Sally Dudderar

Camera:

John Gordoan

Ministers:

The people of St. Stephen's

Pastor F. Mark Walters (lvtheos@gmail.com 410-739-5365)

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