



# St. Stephen's Lutheran Church

## HOLY COMMUNION

First Sunday of Advent  
December 3, 2023

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.

## Gathering

**Prelude**

**Welcome**

**Joys & Concerns**

### \*\* Lighting the Advent Wreath

*Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah (verse 1 repeat as needed)*

ELW 240



- 1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.  
He shall feed the flock like a shep-herd, gent - ly lead them home-ward.  
Lift your heads and lift high the gate-way for the King of glo - ry.  
He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

## \*\* Advent Wreath Lighting Prayer

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

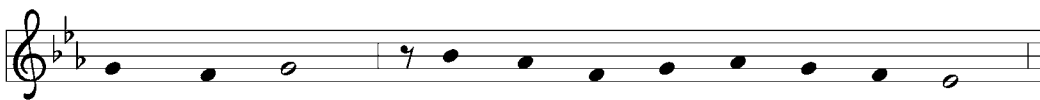
## \*\* Gathering Hymn

*Creator of the Stars of Night*

ELW 245



1 Cre - a - tor of the stars of night, your peo - ple's ev - er -  
2 When this old world drew on toward night, you came; but not in  
3 At your great name, O Je - sus, now all knees must bend, all  
4 Come in your ho - ly might, we pray, re - deem us for e -  
5 To God the Fa - ther, God the Son, and God the Spir - it,



last - ing light, O Christ, re - deem - er of us all,  
splen - dor bright, not as a mon - arch, but the child  
hearts must bow: all things on earth with one ac - cord,  
ter - nal day; de - fend us while we dwell be - low  
Three in One, praise, hon - or, might, and glo - ry be



we pray you hear us when we call,  
of Mar - y, bless - ed moth - er mild.  
like those in heav'n, shall call you Lord.  
from all as - saults of our dread foe.  
from age to age e - ter - nal - ly. A - men.

Text: Latin hymn, 9th cent.; tr. *Hymnal* 1940, alt.

Music: CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM, plainsong mode IV

Text © 1940 Church Pension Fund, admin. Church Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

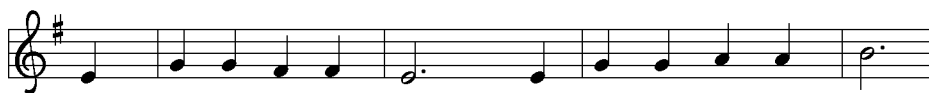
## \*\* Greeting

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**



- 1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.  
2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.  
3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.  
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.  
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

## **\*\* 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.**

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

# Word

*God speaks to us in scripture, preaching and song.*

## **First Reading**

Isaiah 64:1-9 (p. 680-681)

Word of God. Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Psalm**

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

*The Psalm will be read responsively.*

<sup>1</sup>Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;  
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

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

<sup>3</sup>Restore us, O God;  
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

<sup>4</sup>**O LORD God of hosts,  
how long will your anger fume when your people pray?**

<sup>5</sup>You have fed them with the bread of tears;  
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

<sup>6</sup>**You have made us the derision of our neighbors,  
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**

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

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

<sup>18</sup>And so will we never turn away from you;  
give us life, that we may call upon your name.

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

## **Second Reading**

1 Corinthians 1:3-9 (p. 1038)

Word of God. Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

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

**\*\* Gospel Acclamation**



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav-ing word.



Let it burn like fire with-in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

**\*\* Gospel**

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

Mark 13:24-37 (p. 925-926)

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

**\*\* Gospel Acclamation**

*Please see gospel acclamation above.*

**Sermon**

The Rev. Susan Loney

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

## \*\* Hymn of the Day

### *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.

Text: John Brownlie, 1859-1925

Music: CONSOLATION, A. Davison, *Kentucky Harmony*, 1816; arr. Theodore A. Beck, 1929-2003

Arr. © 1969 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission.

## \*\* Prayers of the People

*Each portion of the prayer ends with:*

Response:            Merciful God.            Receive our prayer.

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

# 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.*

## \*\* Offering Song

*O Come, O Come Emmanuel (verses 1 & 2)*

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,



*Refrain*

un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joyce! Re-joyce!  
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.

Text: *Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. composite  
Music: VENI, EMMANUEL, French processional, 15th cent.  
Text sts. 2, 6, 7 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

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

## **\*\* Offering Prayer**

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

## **\*\* Dialogue**

The Lord be with you.

And also 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-er and might,



heav'n 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, 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 remember your Word dwelling among us,  
full of grace and truth.

We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.

We look with hope for his coming.

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit.

Come among us.

Bless this meal.

May your Word take flesh in us.

Awaken your people.

Fill us with your light.

Bring the gift of peace on earth.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours,

Holy One of Israel,

Word of God incarnate,

Power of the Most High,

one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

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

## \*\* Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.

## Invitation to Communion

### Lamb of God



- 1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
- 2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
- 3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

\*\* 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. Wheat and GF wafers are available as are red wine and white juice.*

## Communion Hymn

*Wait for the Lord*

ELW 262

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Wait for the Lord'. It consists of two systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The first system has a treble staff with a G4 quarter note, an F#4 quarter note, an E4 quarter note, a D4 quarter note, a C4 half note, and a B3 half note. The bass staff has a G3 quarter note, an F#3 quarter note, an E3 quarter note, a D3 quarter note, a C3 half note, and a B2 half note. The lyrics 'Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.' are written below the first system. The second system has a treble staff with a G4 quarter note, an F#4 quarter note, an E4 quarter note, a D4 quarter note, a C4 half note, and a B3 half note. The bass staff has a G3 quarter note, an F#3 quarter note, an E3 quarter note, a D3 quarter note, a C3 half note, and a B2 half note. The lyrics 'Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!' are written below the second system.

Text: Taizé Community

Music: WAIT FOR THE LORD, Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994

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## Communion Blessing

**\*\* 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.*

## Post Communion Prayer

Together, let us pray.

Generous God,  
in bread and cup you have revealed your glory  
for all people to see together.  
Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim  
your good news of liberation and release,  
brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior.  
Amen.

## Announcements

### \*\* Blessing

### \*\* Sending Hymn

*My Lord, What a Morning*

ELW 438

*Refrain*

My Lord, what a morn-ing; my Lord, what a morn-ing; oh,

my Lord, what a morn-ing, when the stars be-gin to fall.

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

1 You will hear the trum - pet sound,  
 2 You will hear the sin - ner cry, to wake the na-tions un-der - ground,  
 3 You will hear the Chris-tian shout,

*Refrain*  
 look-ing to my God's right hand, when the stars be-gin to fall.

Text: African American spiritual  
 Music: BURLEIGH, African American spiritual

## **\*\* Dismissal**

Go in peace. Wait for the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

## **Postlude**

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

*The chancel flowers are given by John Rodammer  
to celebrate the beginning of Advent*

*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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## **Participants in Today's Service**

**Pastor:**

The Rev. Susan Loney

**Music Director:**

Claudio Espejo

**Assisting Minister/Lector:**

Bob Linderman

**Usher:**

John Rodammer

**Altar Guild:**

Karleen Strayer

**Camera:**

Rick Feltman

**Ministers:**

The people of St. Stephen's

**Pastor Sue Loney** (susan.loney@yahoo.com 302-494-7185)

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church

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# Holiday Extravaganza

**SUNDAY DECEMBER 10 4PM**

**St. Stephen's Lutheran Church  
1301 N Broom St, Wilmington, DE**

**DELAWARE WOMEN'S CHORUS  
CANTABILE WOMEN'S CHORUS**

**Joanne Ward DIRECTOR**

**SMALL WONDER  
JAZZ SINGERS**

**Martin Lassman DIRECTOR**

**BLECHBLÄSER AUFNEHMEN  
Brass quintet as guests**

**Join us for a wonderful holiday music program!**

**ADMISSION** Non-perishable food item for the St. Stephen's  
Food Pantry. Reservation required for livestream.

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