



# St. Stephen's Lutheran Church

## HOLY COMMUNION

Second Sunday of Advent  
December 10, 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 2 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**

*We Are Waiting for Jesus*

ACS 905

1 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.  
2 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.

We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.  
We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.

Sun of jus - tice, shine up - on us; we are trust - ing in your prom - ise.  
Lov - ing Shep - herd, walk be - side us; stir our hearts, and gent - ly guide us.

We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.  
We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn titled 'We Are Waiting for Jesus'. It is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The score consists of four systems of music. The first system has two parts: a soprano part (1) and an alto part (2). The second system has two parts: a soprano part and an alto part. The third system has two parts: a soprano part and an alto part. The fourth system has two parts: a soprano part and an alto part. The lyrics are written below the notes. The text is: '1 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace. 2 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace. We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace. We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace. Sun of jus - tice, shine up - on us; we are trust - ing in your prom - ise. Lov - ing Shep - herd, walk be - side us; stir our hearts, and gent - ly guide us. We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace. We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.'

Text: John Helgen, b. 1957

Music: JESUS BRINGS PEACE, John Helgen

Text and music © 2013 Augsburg Fortress

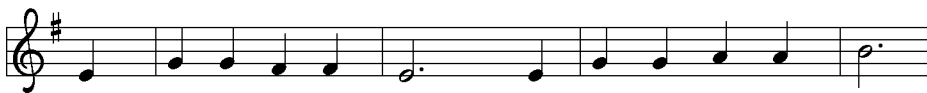
## **\*\* Greeting**

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 40:1-11 (p. 653-654)

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

## **Psalm**

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

*The Psalm will be read responsively.*

<sup>1</sup>You have been gracious to your land, O LORD;  
you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.

<sup>2</sup>**You have forgiven the iniquity of your people  
and blotted out all their sins.**

<sup>8</sup>I will listen to what the LORD God is saying;  
for you speak peace to your faithful people and to those who turn their hearts to  
you.

<sup>9</sup>**Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you,  
that your glory may dwell in our land.**

<sup>10</sup>Steadfast love and faithfulness have met together;  
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

<sup>11</sup>**Faithfulness shall spring up from the earth,  
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.**

<sup>12</sup>The LORD will indeed grant prosperity,  
and our land will yield its increase.

<sup>13</sup>**Righteousness shall go before the LORD  
and shall prepare for God a pathway.**

## **Second Reading**

2 Peter 3:8-15a (p. 1109)

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 1:1-8 (p. 910)

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

**\*\* Gospel Acclamation**

*Please see gospel acclamation above.*

**Sermon**

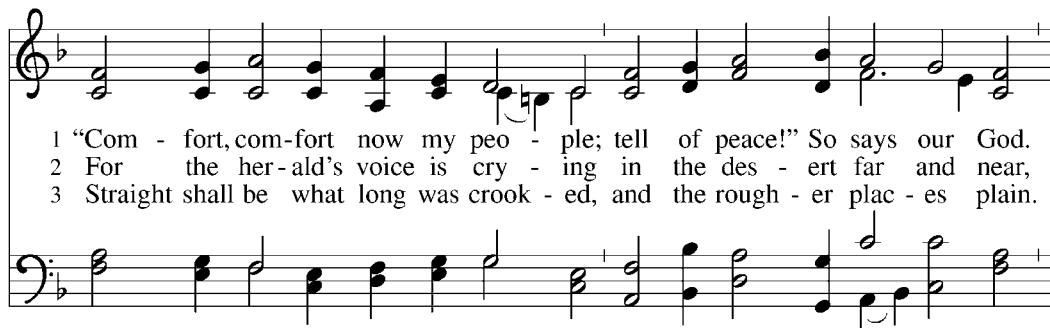
The Rev. Susan Loney

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

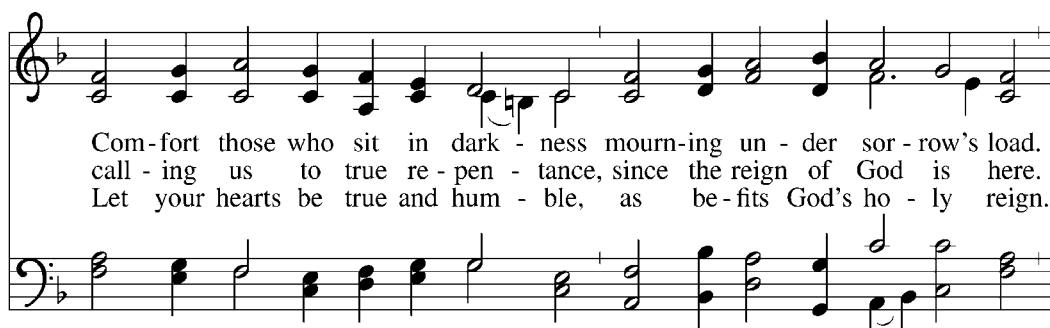
## \*\* Hymn of the Day

### *Comfort, Comfort Now My People*

ELW 256



1 "Com - fort, com-fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!" So says our God.  
2 For the her-ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,  
3 Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain.



Com-fort those who sit in dark - ness mourn-ing un - der sor - row's load.  
call - ing us to true re - pen - tance, since the reign of God is here.  
Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be - fits God's ho - ly reign.



To God's peo - ple now pro-claim that God's par - don waits for them!  
Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way.  
For the glo - ry of the Lord now on earth is shed a - broad,

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



Text: Johann G. Olearius, 1635–1711; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.  
 Music: FREU DICH SEHR, *Trente quatre psaumes de David*, Geneva, 1551

## **\*\* Prayers of the People**

*Each portion of the prayer ends with:*

Response:            Merciful God.            Receive 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 not 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 (verses 1 & 3)*

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.

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

## \*\* 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.**

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



## **\*\* 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.

### **\*\* 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.**

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

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.**

**\*\* 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**

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

## 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.

## 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.*

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

## 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 a communion hymn. It consists of two systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The first system has the lyrics 'Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.' and the second system has 'Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!'. The music is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first system ends with a double bar line and a repeat sign. The second system also ends with a double bar line and a repeat sign.

Text: Taizé Community

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

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www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

## Communion Blessing

# 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

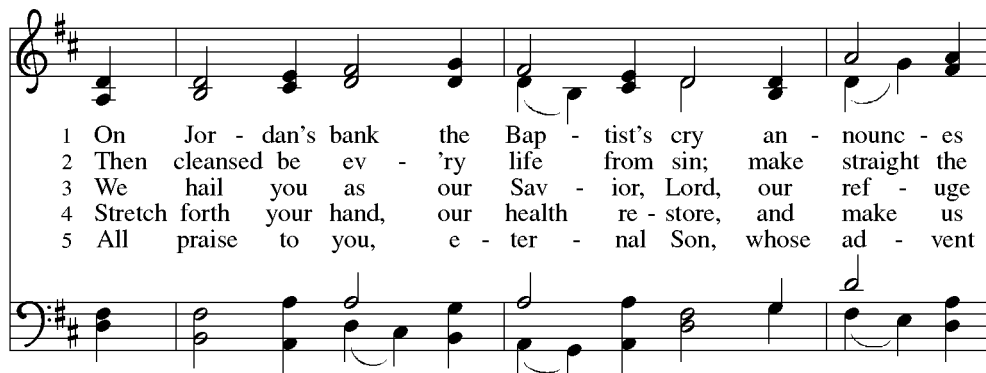
### \*\* Blessing

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

# \*\* Sending Hymn

*On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry*

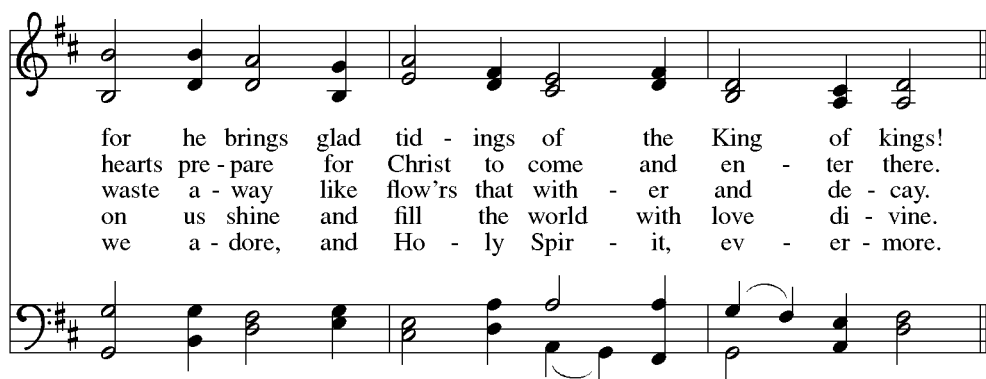
ELW 249



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es  
 2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; make straight the  
 3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge  
 4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and make us  
 5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,  
 way for God with - in, and let us all - our  
 and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we  
 rise to fall no more; oh, let your face up -  
 has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings!  
 hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.  
 waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.  
 on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.  
 we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676-1749; tr. composite

Music: PUER NOBIS, European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571-1621

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

**\*\* Dismissal**

Go in peace. Wait for the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

**Postlude**

*The chancel flowers are given by Bob & Sue Linderman  
in loving memory of Sue's mother, Janet Rowell*

*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. Susan Loney

**Music Director:**

Claudio Espejo

**Assisting Minister/Lector:**

Michele Torchia

**Usher:**

John Gordon

**Altar Guild:**

Carol Landry

**Camera:**

Michael Lehm

**Ministers:**

The people of St. Stephen's

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

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church

1301 N Broom St. Wilmington, DE 19806 302-652-7623

www.ststeph.org office@ststeph.org

## CONCERTS AT ST. STEPHEN'S



### *An Afternoon of Cello & Piano*

Sophia Alvini-Moore, cello

Claudio Espejo, piano

Sunday, December 17 | 4 pm

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church  
1301 N Broom St | Wilmington DE 19806  
[ststeph.org](http://ststeph.org) | 302-652-7623