

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church

HOLY COMMUNION

Third Sunday of Advent
December 11, 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

Waiting is hard when we know that what is coming is good. We wait for, long for, expect, and work for God's justice, God's will. And we often cry out, "How long, O Lord?"

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.

** Gathering Hymn

Awake! Awake and Greet the New Morn

ELW 242



1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for
2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -
3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when
4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, though

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



an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing, Sing out your joy, for
 man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, his hum - ble song is
 all the world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so
 dark the win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall



soon he is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing.
 qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing;
 qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing.
 crown you with light, be strong and lov - ing and fear - less.



Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to -
 mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing -
 Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in
 Love be our song and love our prayer and love our end - less



geth - er, he o - pens wide the heav'n - ly door and
 kind - ness, the thun - der of his an - thems roll to
 won - der, the weak be raised a - bove the strong, and
 sto - ry; may God fill ev - 'ry day we share and



lives now in - side us for - ev - er.
 shat - ter all ha - tred and blind - ness.
 weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.
 bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

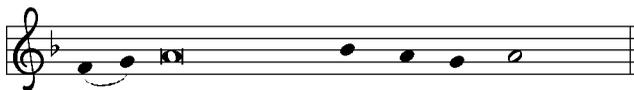
**** Greeting**

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.

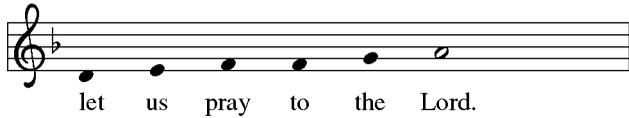


Lord, have mer - cy.

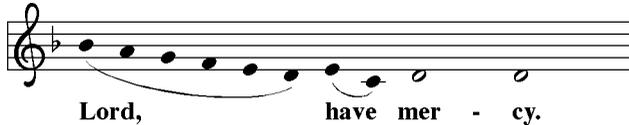


For this ho - ly house, and for all who of - fer here their wor - ship and praise,

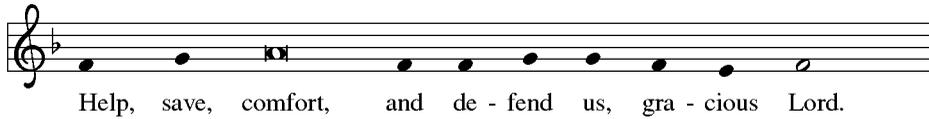
** Please stand as you are able. Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.



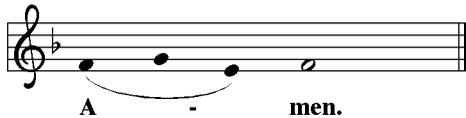
let us pray to the Lord.



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 35:1-10 (p. 649)

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.**

Lighting the Advent Wreath

The assisting minister lights the third candle. The assembly responds Amen.

Psalm

Psalm 146:5-10



⁵Happy are they who have the God of Jacob | for their help,
whose hope is in the | LORD their God;

⁶**who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that | is in them;**
who keeps promis- | es forever;

⁷who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to | those who hunger.
The LORD sets the | captive free.

⁸**The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those who | are bowed
down;**
the LORD | loves the righteous.

Refrain



The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down.

⁹The LORD cares | for the stranger;
the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way | of the wicked.

¹⁰**The LORD shall | reign forever,**
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. | Hallelujah!

Refrain



The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down.

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

Second Reading

James 5:7-10 (p. 1102-1103)

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 11:2-11 (p. 887)

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

The Gospel of the 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.**

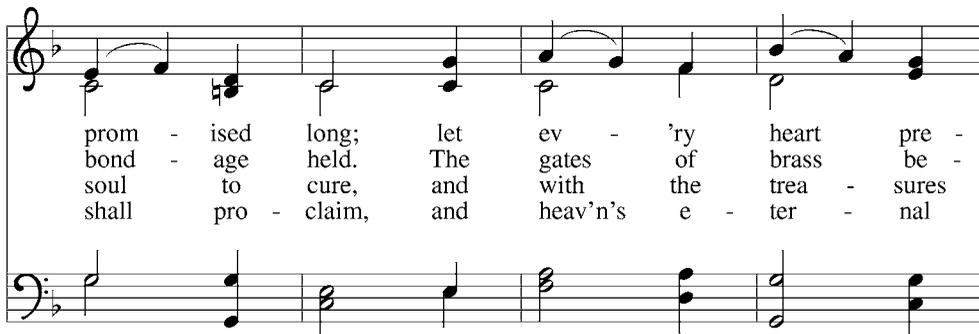
** Hymn of the Day

Hark, the Glad Sound

ELW 239



1 Hark, the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, the Sav - ior
2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, in Sa - tan's
3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of peace, your wel - come



prom - ised long; let ev - 'ry heart pre -
bond - age held. The gates of brass be -
soul to cure, and with the trea - sures
shall pro - claim, and heav'n's e - ter - nal



pare a throne and ev - 'ry voice a song.
fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.
of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.
arch - es ring with your be - lov - ed name.

** 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:	Hear us, O God.	Your mercy is great!
	Lord, in your mercy,	receive our prayer.
	God, in your mercy,	hear 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 Verse 3

ELW 257



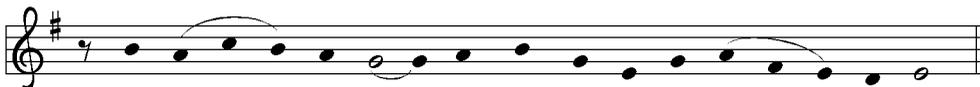
1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things
3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on
4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
far and night; 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-joyce! Re-joyce!
in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.
and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



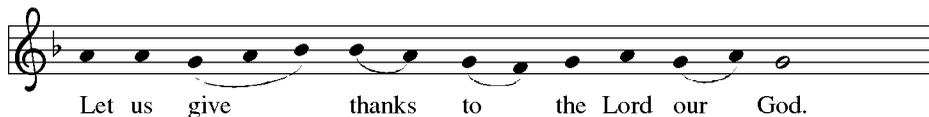
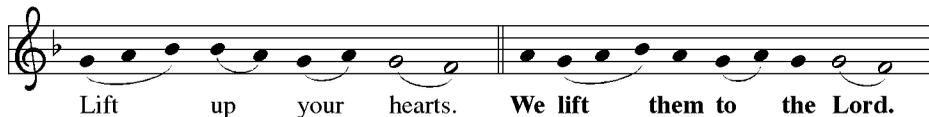
Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

** 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



** Preface

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

** 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.

** 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.**

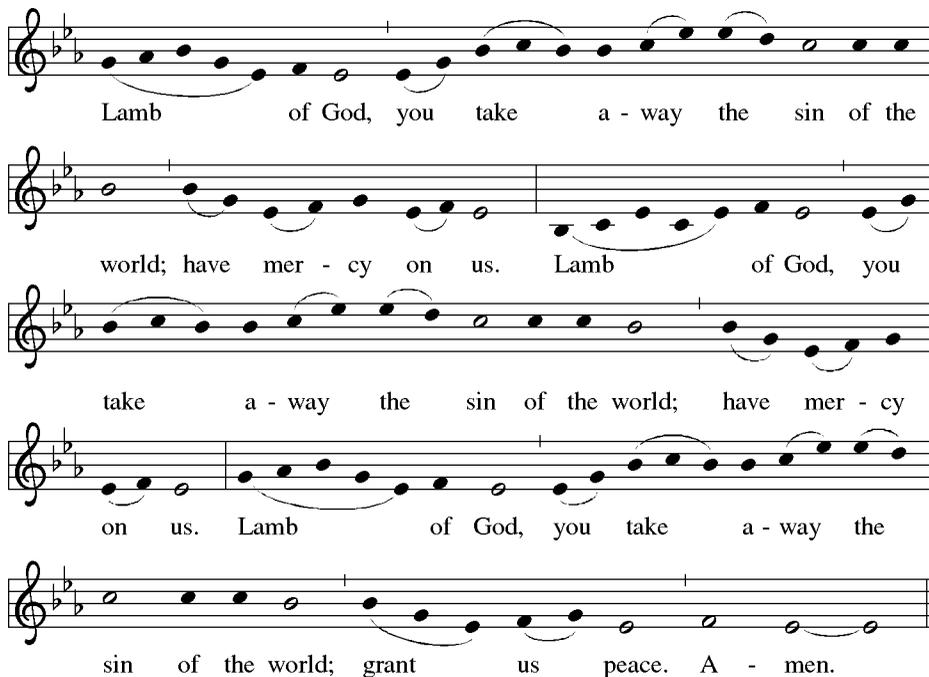
** Lord's Prayer

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.

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

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.

Communion

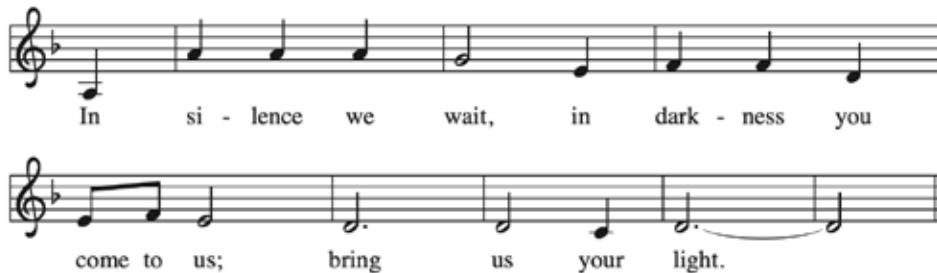
As Lutheran Christians we believe the words of Jesus, "This is my body, this is my blood given for you for the forgiveness of sin." If you desire to receive this gift, you are welcome to commune here. All who do not commune may come for a blessing. The ushers will invite the assembly from the front row 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.

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

Communion

In Silence We Wait (sing twice)

ACS 998



The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major, 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the song, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The lyrics are written below the notes.

In si - lence we wait, in dark - ness you
come to us; bring us your light.

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

Sending

We are sent into the world to serve.

** Blessing

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

**** Sending Hymn**
People, Look East

ELW 249

1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing
 2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is
 3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the
 4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new

of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,
 plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,
 bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,
 life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming

trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look
 that in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look
 bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look
 with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look

east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

** 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 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.

Worship elements taken from Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2020 Augsburg Fortress.
All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #24228

Participants in Today's Service

Pastor:

The Rev. Mark Walters

Music Director:

Claudio Espejo

Assisting Minister/Lector:

Ann Wagner

Usher:

John Rodammer

Altar Guild:

Carol Landry

Camera:

Ann Warner

Ministers:

The people of St. Stephen's

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

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church

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

www.saintstephenslutheranchurch.org office@ststeph.org