

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church

HOLY COMMUNION

Second Sunday of Advent
December 4, 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, who long for the peace of Christ's rule, must live and work for justice.

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

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.

The musical score consists of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The bottom staff is in bass clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The music is written in a simple, hymn-like style with block chords and single notes.

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

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,

Tell them that their war is o - ver; God will reign in peace for - ev - er.
 Val - leys, rise to greet the Sav - ior; hills, bow down in hum-ble fa - vor.
 and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

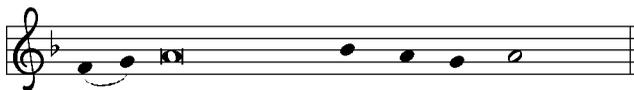
**** Greeting**

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.

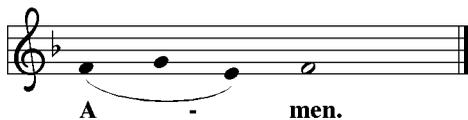
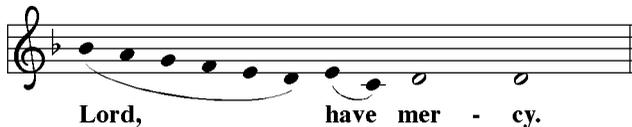
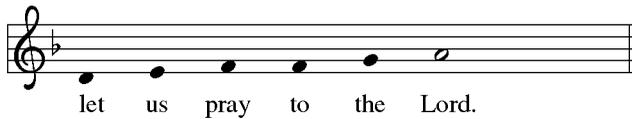


Lord, have mer - cy.



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.



**** 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 11:1-10 (p. 627-628)

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.**

¹⁹And blessed be your glorious | name forever,
and may all the earth be filled with your glory. A - | men. Amen.

Refrain



May the righ - teous flour - ish;



let there be an a - bun - dance of peace.

Second Reading

Romans 15:4-13 (p. 1035-1036)

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 3:1-12 (p. 878-879)

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***On Jordan's Bank the Baptists 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.

** 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.
 Lord, in your mercy,
 God, in your mercy,

**Your mercy is great!
receive our prayer.
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 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 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.



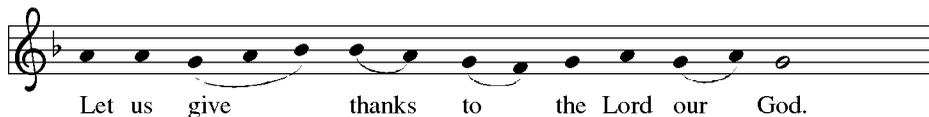
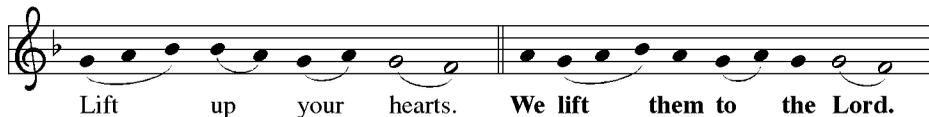
Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

** 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.**

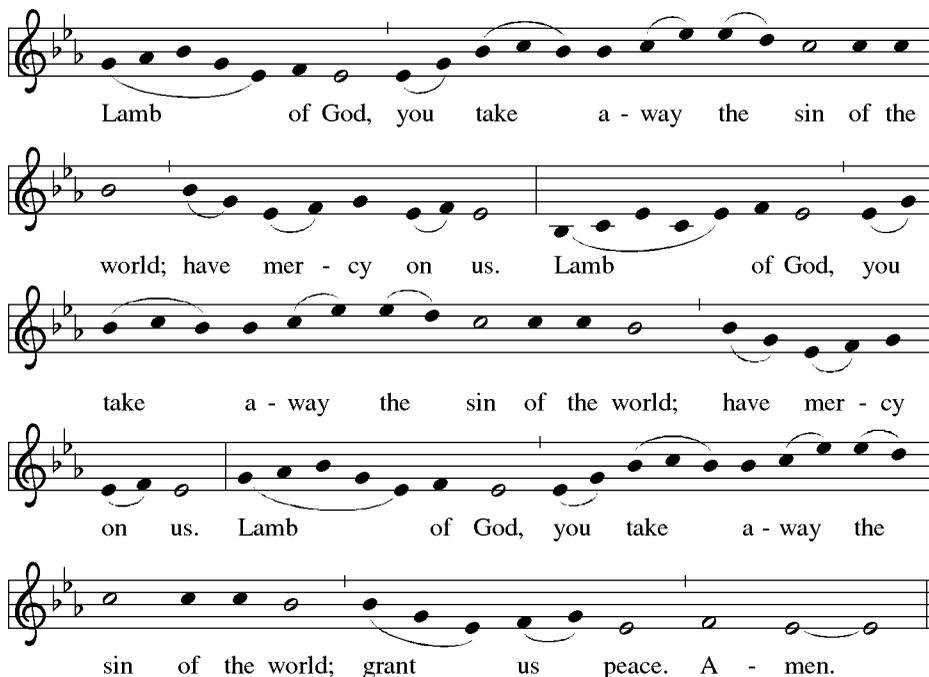
** Lord's Prayer

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.

Communion Instrumental

Communion Blessing

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

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

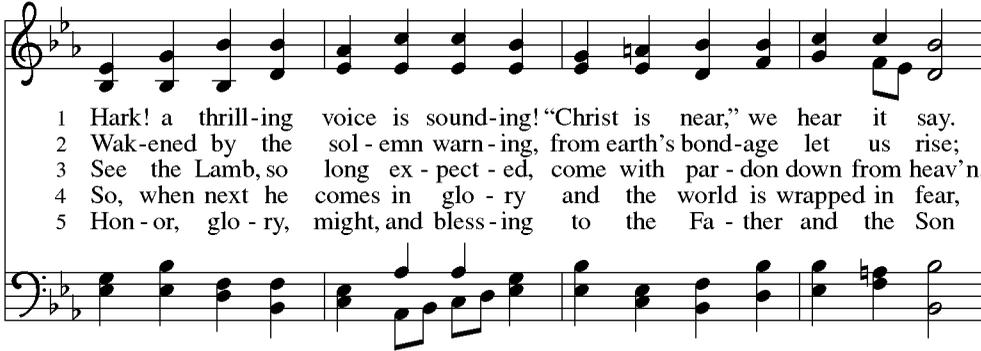
We are sent into the world to serve.

** Blessing

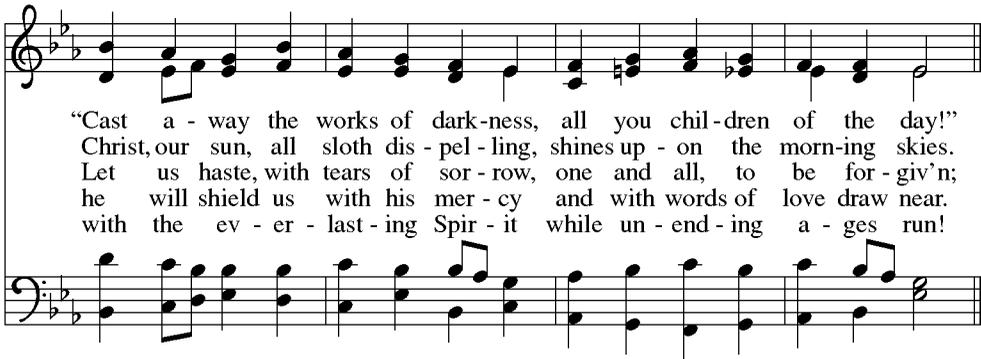
** Sending Hymn

Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding!

ELW 246



1 Hark! a thrill-ing voice is sound-ing! "Christ is near," we hear it say.
2 Wak-ened by the sol - emn warn - ing, from earth's bond-age let us rise;
3 See the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, come with par - don down from heav'n.
4 So, when next he comes in glo - ry and the world is wrapped in fear,
5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, and bless - ing to the Fa - ther and the Son



"Cast a - way the works of dark-ness, all you chil-dren of the day!"
Christ, our sun, all sloth dis - pel - ling, shines up - on the morn-ing skies.
Let us haste, with tears of sor - row, one and all, to be for - giv'n;
he will shield us with his mer - cy and with words of love draw near.
with the ev - er - last - ing Spir - it while un - end - ing a - ges run!

** Dismissal

Go in peace. Christ is near.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Chancel flowers are given by Ralph & Susan Heiss in honor of Shawn Heiss's birthday

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

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. Mark Walters

Music Director:

Claudio Espejo

Assisting Minister/Lector:

Michael Farthing

Usher:

Bob Linderman

Altar Guild:

Sally Dudderar

Camera:

Michael Lehm

Ministers:

The people of St. Stephen's

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

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