



# St. Stephen's Lutheran Church

## HOLY COMMUNION

First Sunday of Advent  
November 27, 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

Today's Scripture is infused with hope, expectation, and longing.

## 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

*Awake, My Soul, and with the Sun*

ELW 557



1 A - wake, my soul, and with the sun thy  
2 All praise to thee, who safe hast kept and  
3 Lord, I my vows to thee re - new. Dis -  
4 Di - rect, con - trol, sug - gest, this day, all  
5 Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise



dai - ly stage of du - ty run; shake off dull sloth, and  
hast re - freshed me while I slept. Grant, Lord, when I from  
perse my sins as morn - ing dew; guard my first springs of  
I de - sign or do or say, that all my pow'rs, with  
God, all crea - tures here be - low; praise God a - bove, ye



joy - ful rise to pay thy morn - ing sac - ri - fice.  
death shall wake, I may of end - less light par - take.  
thought and will; and with thy - self my spir - it fill.  
all their might, in thy sole glo - ry may u - nite.  
heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

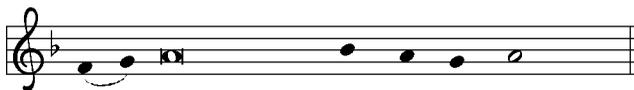
## \*\* Greeting

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.

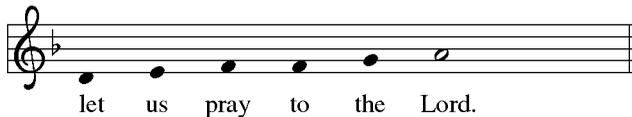


Lord, have mer - cy.



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

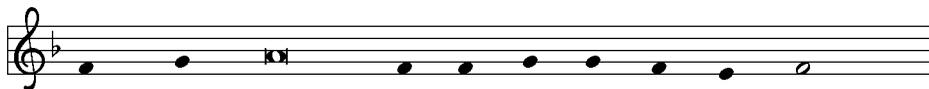
\*\* Please stand as you are able. Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.



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 2:1-5 (p. 618)

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

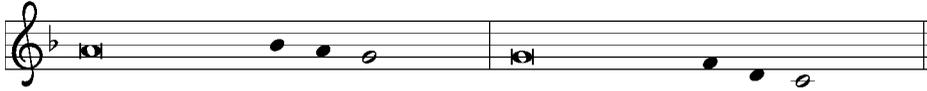
\*\* Please stand as you are able. **Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.**

## Lighting the Advent Wreath

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

### Psalm

Psalm 122



<sup>1</sup>I was glad when they | said to me,  
“Let us go to the house | of the LORD.”

<sup>2</sup>**Now our | feet are standing**  
**within your gates, | O Jerusalem.**

<sup>3</sup>Jerusalem is built | as a city  
that is at unity | with itself;

<sup>4</sup>**to which the tribes go up, the tribes | of the LORD,**  
**the assembly of Israel, to praise the name | of the LORD.**

### Refrain



I was glad when they said to me,



“Let us go to the house of the LORD.”

<sup>5</sup>For there are the | thrones of judgment,  
the thrones of the | house of David.

<sup>6</sup>**Pray for the peace | of Jerusalem:**  
**“May they pros- | per who love you.**

<sup>7</sup>Peace be with- | in your walls  
and quietness with- | in your towers.

<sup>8</sup>**For the sake of my kindred | and companions,**  
**I pray for | your prosperity.**

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

<sup>9</sup>Because of the house of the | LORD our God,  
I will seek to | do you good.”

*Refrain*



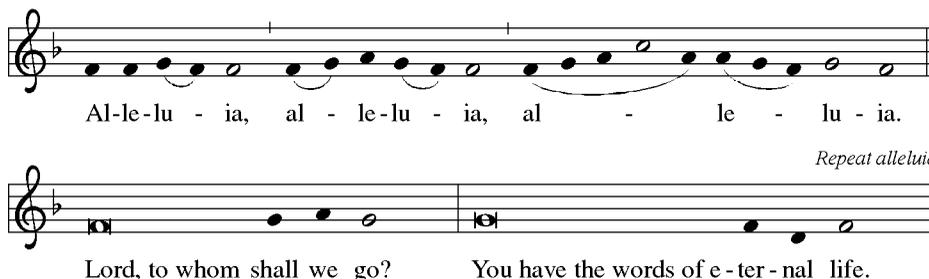
I was glad when they said to me,  
“Let us go to the house of the LORD.”

**Second Reading**

Romans 13:11-14 (p. 1034)

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 24:36-44 (p. 903)

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

*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.

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,

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

*Refrain*

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

**\*\* 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,	<b>Your mercy is great! receive our prayer. hear our prayer.</b>
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\*\* 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.*

## Anthem

*"Wachet Auf" is Bach's Chorale BWV 140 based on the Matthew story of "the wise and foolish Virgins" As we start a new year we reflect on our preparations for the coming of Christ. It is Hymn 436 in the ELW.*

Zion hört die Wächter singen,  
Das Herz tut ihr vor Freuden springen,  
Sie wachet und steht eilend auf.

Ihr Freund kommt vom Himmel  
prächtig,  
Von Gnaden stark, von Wahrheit  
mächtig,  
Ihr Licht wird hell, ihr Stern geht auf.  
Nun komm, du werthe Kron,  
Herr Jesu, Gottes Sohn!  
Hosianna!  
Wir folgen all  
Zum Freudensaal  
Und halten mit das Abendmahl.

Zion hears the watchmen singing  
The maidens' hearts with joy are  
springing  
They wake and quickly to Him go.  
Their Friend comes in Heav'nly splendor  
With graceful strength, with mercy  
tender  
Their light is bright, their star doth glow.  
Now come, thou worthy One;  
Lord Jesus, God's own Son  
Hosanna!  
We follow all  
To that glad hall  
To our Lord's table we are called.

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

## \*\* Offering Song

### *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel Verse 1*

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-joyce! Re-joyce!  
in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.  
and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



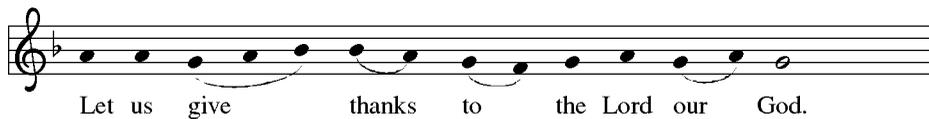
Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

## \*\* Offering Prayer

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

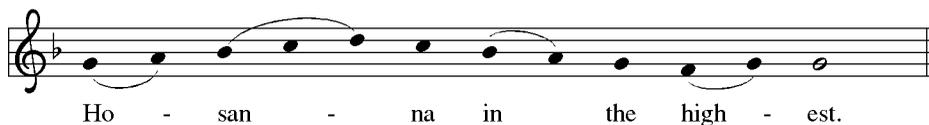
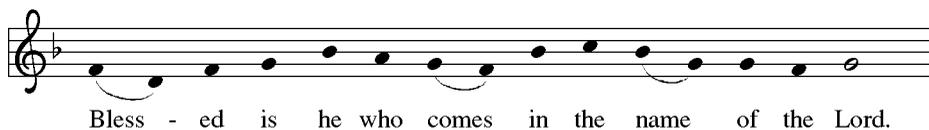
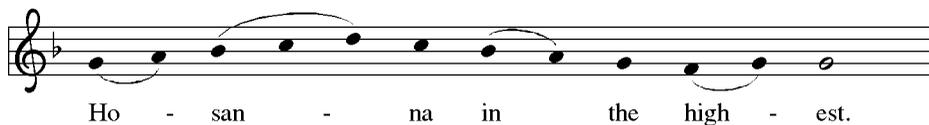
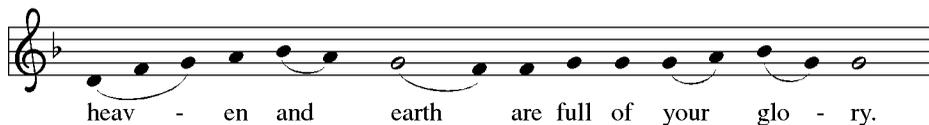
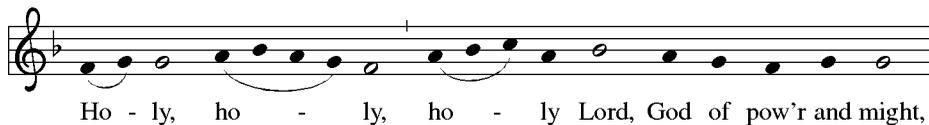
\*\* Please stand as you are able. Items in bold are to be spoken by the assembly.

## \*\* Dialogue



## \*\* Preface

### \*\* Holy, Holy, Holy



\*\* 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.**

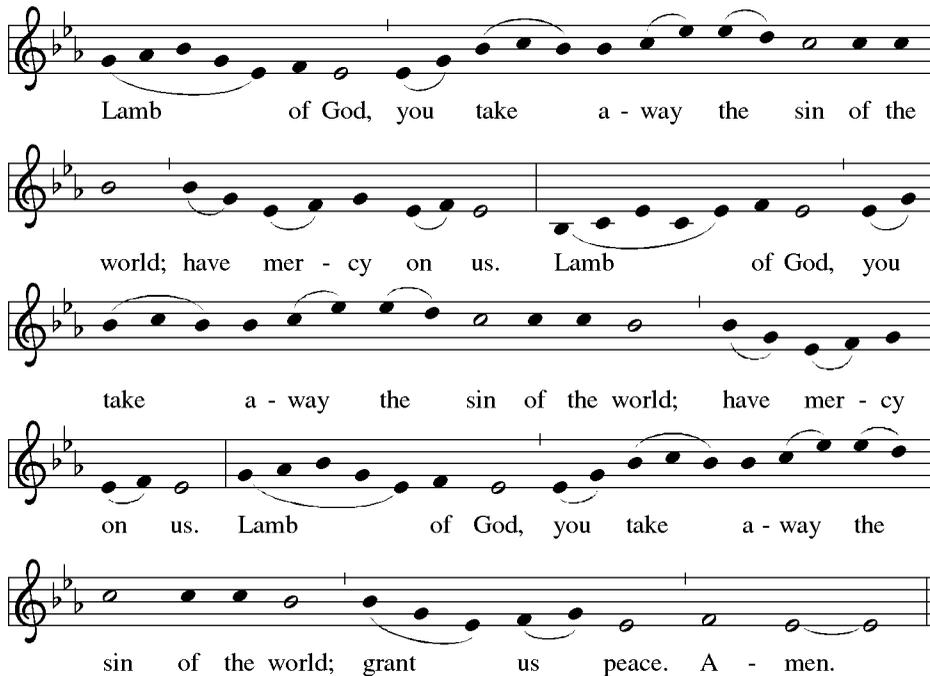
All praise and glory are yours.... one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## \*\* 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.**

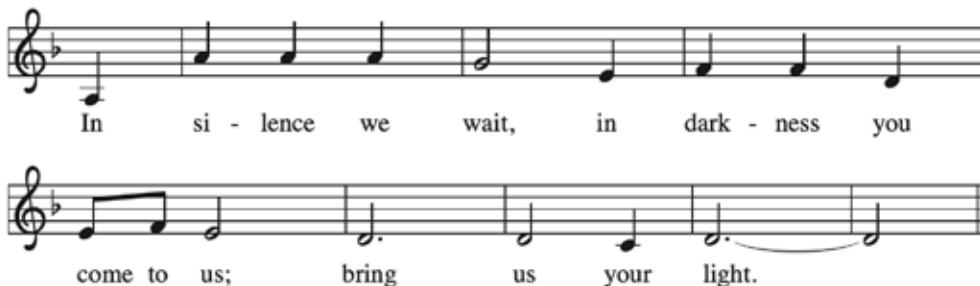
## Communion

*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 Hymn

*In Silence We Wait (sing twice)*

ACS 998



The image shows two staves of musical notation for the hymn "In Silence We Wait". The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the hymn, 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

\*\* 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

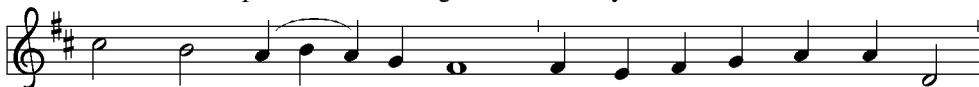
## \*\* Sending Hymn

*Rise, O Sun of Righteousness*

ELW 657



1 Rise, O Sun of righ - teous - ness; with your  
2 Rouse our hearts from slum - ber deep; may your  
3 Gath - er in your scat - tered flock; give us  
4 Burst the bars of stub - born pride; make the  
5 Hon - or, praise, and glo - ry be to the



might cre - a - tion bless. Shine up - on your church to - day,  
word with - in us leap. Give us voic - es to pro - claim  
wa - ter from the rock. Bless the u - ni - ty we share  
heav'n - ly path - way wide. Raise us up from sin and death  
ho - ly Trin - i - ty! May your gra - cious will be done:



show - ing all your gen - tle way. Have mer - cy, Lord.  
prais - es to your ho - ly name. Have mer - cy, Lord.  
in our shep - herd's lov - ing care. Have mer - cy, Lord.  
with your Spir - it's liv - ing breath. Have mer - cy, Lord.  
make us one, as you are one. Have mer - cy, Lord.

## \*\* Dismissal

Go in peace. Christ is near.

Thanks be to God.

## Postlude

*Chancel flowers are given by Tom & Karleen Strayer to the Glory of God.*

\*\* 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:**

John Rodammer

**Altar Guild:**

Carol Landry

**Camera:**

John Gordon

**Ministers:**

The people of St. Stephen's

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

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