



# St. Stephen's Lutheran Church

## HOLY COMMUNION

First Sunday of Advent  
December 1, 2024

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

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

### **Prelude**

### **Welcome**

### **Joys & Concerns**

### **\*\* Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,  
alive in the world,  
reviving creation,  
arriving soon.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God  
and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God of mercy,  
we confess that we have sinned.  
**We trust earthly powers and human authority alone.**  
**We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.**

God of might,  
we confess that we have sinned.  
**We have turned away from our neighbors.**  
**We have trusted false promises.**

God in our midst,  
we confess that we have sinned.  
**We plead: come to us.**  
**Bring your mercy to birth in us.**

A righteous branch springs forth:  
it is Christ the Lord, our Savior,  
in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy.  
By the power of the Holy Spirit,  
receive the grace and forgiveness of God  
through † Christ Jesus,  
whose day draws near.  
Amen.

**\*\* Gathering Hymn**

*My Lord, What a Morning*

ELW 438

*Refrain*

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

The image shows a musical score for the refrain of the hymn 'My Lord, What a Morning'. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The melody is written in the treble staff, and the bass line is in the bass staff. The lyrics 'My Lord, what a morn-ing; my Lord, what a morn-ing; oh,' are written below the treble staff, aligned with the notes. The word 'oh,' is written below the final note of the treble staff. The bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and single notes.

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

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,

*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

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

## \*\* Lighting the Advent Wreath

We praise you, O God, for this evergreen crown  
that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent.  
As we light the first candle on this wreath,  
rouse us from sleep, that we may be ready to greet our Lord  
when he comes with all the saints and angels.  
Enlighten us with your grace,  
and prepare our hearts to welcome him with joy.  
Grant this through Christ our Lord,  
whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. **Amen.**  
*Light the first candle as we sing the advent hymn.*

## \*\* Advent 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.

Text: John Helgen, b. 1957

Music: JESUS BRINGS PEACE, John Helgen

Text and music © 2013 Augsburg Fortress

\*\* 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.*

# Word

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

**First Reading**

Jeremiah 33:14-16

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

**Psalm**

Psalm 25:1-10

<sup>1</sup>To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

<sup>2</sup>**O my God, in you I trust;  
do not let me be put to shame;  
do not let my enemies exult over me.**

<sup>3</sup>Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame;  
let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

<sup>4</sup>**Make me to know your ways, O Lord;  
teach me your paths.**

<sup>5</sup>Lead me in your truth and teach me,  
for you are the God of my salvation;  
for you I wait all day long.

<sup>6</sup>**Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and of your steadfast love,  
for they have been from of old.**

<sup>7</sup>Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions;  
according to your steadfast love remember me,  
for the sake of your goodness, O Lord!

<sup>8</sup>**Good and upright is the Lord;  
therefore he instructs sinners in the way.**

<sup>9</sup>He leads the humble in what is right  
and teaches the humble his way.

<sup>10</sup>**All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness,  
for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.**

**Second Reading**

Word of God, Word of Life.

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Thanks be to God.

**\*\* Gospel Acclamation**

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,  
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

**\*\* Gospel**

Luke 21:25-36

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you O Lord.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you O Christ.

**\*\* Gospel Acclamation**

*Please see gospel acclamation above.*

**Sermon**

The Rev. Susan Loney

**\*\* Hymn of the Day**

*Wake, Awake, for the Night is Flying*

ELW 436

1 Wake, a - wake, for night is fly - ing, the watch-men  
2 Zi - on hears the watch-men sing - ing, and all her  
3 Glo - ri - a! Let heav'n a - dore you! Let saints and

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

on the heights are cry - ing; a - wake, Je - ru - sa - lem, at last.  
 heart with joy is spring - ing. She wakes, she ris - es from her gloom.  
 an - gels sing be - fore you, with harp and cym - bal's clear - est tone.

Mid - night hears the wel - come voice - es, and at the  
 Her dear friend comes down, all glo - rious, the strong in  
 Gates of pearl, twelve por - tals gleam - ing, lead us to

thrill - ing cry re - joic - es: "Come forth, you maid - ens! Night is past.  
 grace, in truth vic - to - rious: her star is ris'n; her light is come.  
 bliss be - yond all dream - ing, with an - gel choirs a - round your throne.

The bride - groom comes! A - wake; your lamps with glad - ness take!"  
 Now come, O Bless - ed One, Lord Je - sus, God's own Son.  
 No eye has caught the light, no ear the thun - d'ring might

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

Al - le - lu - ia! Rise and pre - pare the feast to share;  
 Sing ho - san - na! Oh, hear the call! Come one, come all,  
 of such glo - ry. There we will go: what joy we'll know!

go, meet the bride - groom, who draws near.  
 and fol - low to the ban - quet hall.  
 There sweet de - light will ev - er flow.

Text: Philipp Nicolai, 1556-1608; tr. composite  
 Music: WACHET AUF, Philipp Nicolai  
 Text © 1999 Augsburg Fortress.

## \*\* 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 what God has given us: ourselves, our time, and our possessions. A financial gift to St Stephen's supports the work of the congregation in our community.*

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



**\*\* Offering Song**  
*He Came Down*

ELW 253

1 He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;  
2 He came down that we may have light; he came down that we may have light;  
3 He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace;  
4 He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;

he came down that we may have love;  
he came down that we may have light; hal-le - lu - jah for-ev - er - more.  
he came down that we may have peace;  
he came down that we may have joy;

Text: Cameroon traditional

Music: HE CAME DOWN, Cameroon traditional; arr. John L. Bell, b. 1949

Arr. © 1986 Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc., agent, 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.  
All rights reserved. Used by permission.

**\*\* 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 - 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. 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.**

**Amen.**

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.**

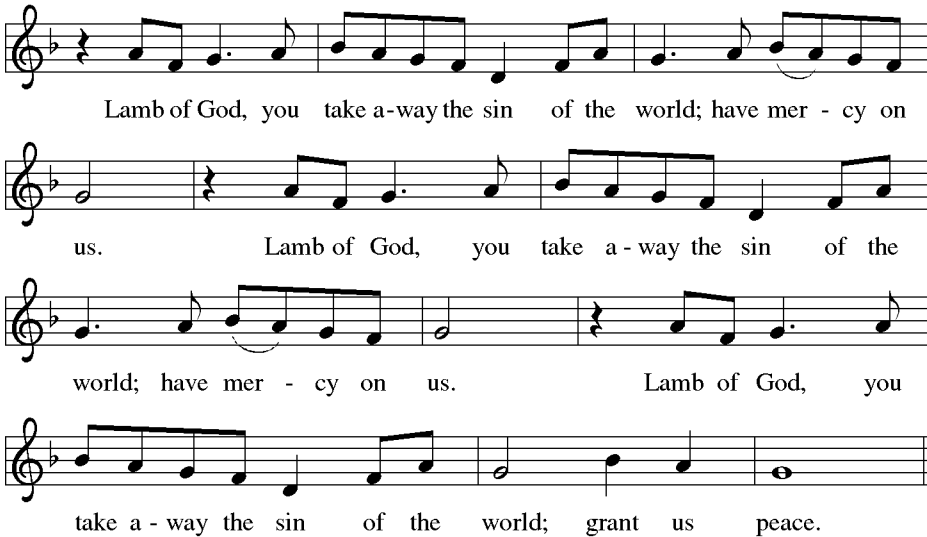
**\*\* Lord's Prayer**

**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



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.

## Communion

*Holy Communion is a free gift of God's grace and love. Everyone is welcome to share in this meal. Come forward, take an empty cup from the table, then kneel or stand along the Communion rail. If you require GF wafers, please tell the minister. Our chalices contain red wine and amber-colored juice. As you return to your seat, place your used cup in the receptacle at the end of the first row of pews. If you wish to receive words of blessing, simply tell the minister.*

## Communion Hymn

*We Come Now to Your Table*

ACS 970



We come now to your ta - ble, Lord, you are the Liv - ing Bread.

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



We come now to your ta - ble, Lord, let ev - 'ry soul be fed.



You are the Liv - ing Bread, let ev - 'ry soul be fed:



and now may ev - 'ry soul be fed with Liv - ing Bread.

Text: Caribbean Conference of Churches Jamaica workshop  
 Music: LIVING BREAD, St. Vincent traditional, adapt.; arr. Patrick Prescod, 1932-2013  
 Text and music © Caribbean Conference of Churches

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

## **Communion Blessing**

### **\*\* Post Communion Prayer**

Together, let us pray.

Generous God,

we thank you for the gift of life,  
for the bread of salvation.

We thank you for coming among us,  
for leading us into peace.

We thank you for showering us with mercy,  
for sending us into the world.

Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us  
as we feed the hungry in your name.

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

### *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. Davisson, *Kentucky Harmony*, 1816; arr. Theodore A. Beck, 1929-2003

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

## \*\* Dismissal

Go in peace,

**To Love, To Invite, To Serve.**

Prepare the way!

**Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude:** *Wachet Auf*

J.S. Bach

\*\* 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  
pastor@ststeph.org

**Music Director:**

Claudio Espejo

**Assisting Minister/Lector:**

Bob Linderman

**Altar Guild:**

Michele Torchia

**Usher:**

Michael Lehm

**Camera:**

Kevin Loney

**Ministers:**

The people of St. Stephen's

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Text the word "welcome" to 855-965-5200 to receive our weekly e-newsletter.

May God go with you today and every day.

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