



St. Stephen's Lutheran Church

LESSONS & CAROLS

9:30 am Sunday, December 29, 2024



Gathering

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

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.

Prelude: *Of the Father's Love Begotten*

Michael Larkin

Welcome

Joys and Concerns

**** Call to Worship**

Behold, now is the acceptable time;

now is the day of salvation.

Turn us again, O God of our salvation,

that the light of your face may shine on us.

May your justice shine like the sun;

and may the poor be lifted up.

** 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.

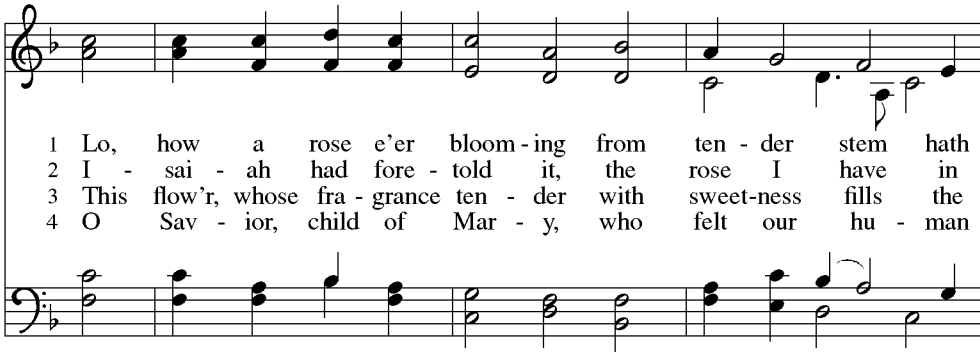
First Lesson

Isaiah 11:1-9 A Shoot from the Root of Jesse

** Hymn

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

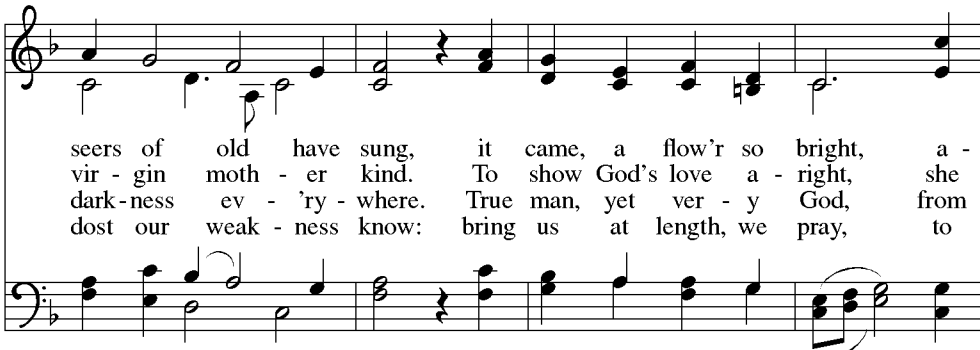
ELW 272



1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing from ten - der stem hath
2 I - sai - ah had fore - told it, the rose I have in
3 This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet-ness fills the
4 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, who felt our hu - man



sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing as
mind; with Mar - y we be - hold it, the
air, dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor the
woe; O Sav - ior, king of glo - ry, who



seers of old have sung, it came, a flow'r so bright, a -
vir - gin moth - er kind. To show God's love a - right, she
dark-ness ev - 'ry - where. True man, yet ver - y God, from
dost our weak - ness know: bring us at length, we pray, to

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

mid the cold of win - ter, when half - spent was the night.
 bore to us a Sav - ior, when half - spent was the night.
 sin and death he saves us and light - ens ev - 'ry load.
 the bright courts of heav - en and in - to end - less day.

Text: German carol, 15th cent.; tr. Theodore Baker, 1851–1934, sts. 1-2; Harriet R. Krauth, 1845–1925, st. 3; John C. Mattes, 1876–1948, st. 4
 Music: ES IST EIN ROS, *Alte catholische geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1599; arr. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621

Second Lesson

Matthew 1:18-25 The Birth of Jesus

** Hymn

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

ELW 276

1 In - fant ho - ly, in - fant low - ly, for his bed a cat - tle stall;
 2 Flocks were sleep - ing, shep - herds keep - ing vig - il till the morn - ing new
 ox - en low - ing, lit - tle know - ing Christ the child is Lord of all.
 saw the glo - ry, heard the sto - ry, tid - ings of a gos - pel true.
 Swift - ly wing - ing, an - gels sing - ing, bells are ring - ing, tid - ings bring - ing:
 Thus re - joic - ing, free from sor - row, prais - es voic - ing, greet the mor - row:
 Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!
 Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

Text: Polish carol; tr. Edith M. G. Reed, 1885–1933, alt.
 Music: W ZŁOBIE LEZY, Polish carol

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

** Hymn

As With Gladness Men of Old (verses 1-3, 5)

ELW 302



1 As with glad - ness men of old did the guid - ing star be - hold;
 2 As with joy - ful steps they sped, Sav - ior, to thy low - ly bed,
 3 As they of - fered gifts most rare at thy cra - dle, rude and bare,
 4 Ho - ly Je - sus, ev - 'ry day keep us in the nar - row way;
 5 In the heav'n - ly coun - try bright need they no cre - a - ted light;



as with joy they hailed its light, lead - ing on - ward, beam - ing bright;
 there to bend the knee be - fore thee, whom heav'n and earth a - dore;
 so may we with ho - ly joy, pure and free from sin's al - loy,
 and when earth - ly things are past, bring our ran - somed souls at last
 thou its light, its joy, its crown, thou its sun which goes not down;



so, most gra - cious Lord, may we ev - er - more be led by thee.
 so may we with will - ing feet ev - er seek thy mer - cy seat.
 all our cost - liest trea - sures bring, Christ, to thee, our heav'n - ly king.
 where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glo - ry hide.
 there for - ev - er may we sing al - le - lu - ias to our king.



Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898, alt.
 Music: DIX, Conrad Kocher, 1786-1872

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

**** Hymn***Once We Sang and Danced*

ELW 701



- 1 Once we sang and danced with glad-ness, once de-light filled ev-'ry breath;
- 2 All the wil-lows bow in weep-ing, all the riv-ers rage and moan,
- 3 God, who came to dwell a-mong us, God, who suf-fered our dis-grace,
- 4 Come, O Christ, a-mong the ash-es, come to wipe our tears a-way,



now we sit a-mong the ash-es, all our dreams de-stroyed by death.
 as cre-a-tion joins our plead-ing: "God, do not leave us a-lone."
 from your own heart, grieved and wound-ed, come the rich-es of your grace.
 death de-stroy and sor-row ban-ish; now and al-ways, come and stay.

Text: Susan R. Briehl, b. 1952, based on Psalm 137

Music: KAS DZIEDĀJA, Latvian folk tune

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

**** Hymn***In a Lowly Manger Born*

ELW 718



1 In a low - ly man - ger born, hum - ble life be - gun in scorn;
 2 Vis - it - ing the lone and lost, stead - y - ing the tem - pest - tossed,
 3 Then, to res - cue you and me, Je - sus died up - on the tree.



un - der Jo - seph's watch - ful eye, Je - sus grew as you and I;
 giv - ing of him - self in love, call - ing minds to things a - bove.
 See in him God's love re - vealed; by his pas - sion we are healed.



knew the suf - f'rings of the weak, knew the pa - tience of the meek,
 Sin - ners glad - ly hear his call; pub - li - cans be - fore him fall,
 Now he lives in glo - ry bright, lives a - gain in pow'r and might;



hun - gered as but poor folk can; this is he. Be - hold the man!
 for in him new life be - gan; this is he. Be - hold the man!
 come and take the path he trod, son of Mar - y, Son of God.

Text: Kō Yūki, 1896–1985; tr. composite
 Music: MABUNE, Seigi Abe, 1891–1974
 Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.
 Music © Seigi Abe, admin. Christian Conference of Asia.

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

** Hymn

Before the Marvel of this Night

WOV 636



1 Be - fore the mar - vel of this night, a - dor - ing,
 2 A - wake the sleep - ing world with song, this is the
 3 The love that we have al - ways known, our con - stant



fold your wings and bow, then tear the sky a - part with light
 day the Lord has made. As - sem - ble here, ce - les - tial throng,
 joy and end - less light, now to the love - less world be shown,



and with your news the world en - dow. Pro - claim the
 in roy - al splen - dor come ar - rayed. Give earth a
 now break up - on its death - ly night. In - to one



birth of Christ and peace, that fear and death and sor - row cease:
 glimpse of heav'n - ly bliss, a teas - ing taste of what they miss:
 song com - press the love that rules our u - ni - verse a - bove:



sing peace, sing peace, sing gift of
 sing bliss, sing bliss, sing end - less
 sing love, sing love, sing God is



peace, sing peace, sing gift of peace!
 bliss, sing bliss, sing end - less bliss!
 love, sing love, sing God is love!

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919

Music: MARVEL., Carl Schalk, b. 1929

Text © 1981 Jaroslav J. Vajda, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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**** Hymn**

Creator of the Stars of Night

ELW 245



1 Cre - a - tor of the stars of night, your peo - ple's ev - er -
 2 When this old world drew on toward night, you came; but not in
 3 At your great name, O Je - sus, now all knees must bend, all
 4 Come in your ho - ly might, we pray, re - deem us for e -
 5 To God the Fa - ther, God the Son, and God the Spir - it,



last - ing light, O Christ, re - deem - er of us all,
 splen - dor bright, not as a mon - arch, but the child
 hearts must bow: all things on earth with one ac - cord,
 ter - nal day; de - fend us while we dwell be - low
 Three in One, praise, hon - or, might, and glo - ry be



we pray you hear us when we call.
 of Mar - y, bless - ed moth - er mild.
 like those in heav'n, shall call you Lord.
 from all as - saults of our dread foe.
 from age to age e - ter - nal - ly. A - men.

Text: Latin hymn, 9th cent.; tr. *Hymnal* 1940, alt.
 Music: CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM, plainsong mode IV
 Text © 1940 Church Pension Fund, admin. Church Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

**** Prayers of the People**

Each portion of the prayer ends with:

Response: Lord, in your mercy, receive 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 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.

** Offering Song

Love Has Come

ELW 292



1 Love has come— a light in the dark - ness! Love shines forth in the
2 Love is born! Come, share in the won - der. Love is God now a -
3 Love has come and nev - er will leave us! Love is life ev - er -



Beth - le - hem skies. See, all heav - en has come to pro - claim it;
sleep in the hay. See the glow in the eyes of his moth - er;
last - ing and free. Love is Je - sus with - in and a - mong us.



hear how their song of joy a - ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to
what is the name her heart is say - ing? Love! Love! Love is the
Love is the peace our hearts are seek - ing. Love! Love! Love is the



you, a Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high.
name she whis - pers; Love! Love! Je - sus, Im - man - u - el.
gift of Christ - mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

Text: Ken Bible, b. 1950

Music: UN FLAMBEAU, F. Seguin, *Recueil de Noël composés en langue provençale*, 1856

Text © 1996 Integrity's Hosanna! Music (ASCAP), c/o Integrity Media, Inc., 1000 Cody Road, Mobile, AL 36695.

** 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.

**** Words of Institution**

**** 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

Communion

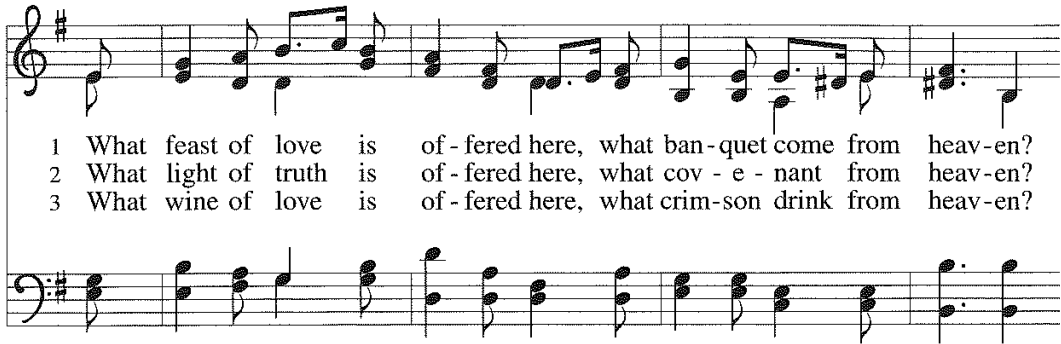
Holy Communion is a free gift of God's grace and love. Everyone is welcome to share in this meal. Come forward, take an empty cup from the table, then kneel or stand along the Communion rail. If you require GF wafers, please tell the minister. Our chalices contain red wine and amber-colored juice. As 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.

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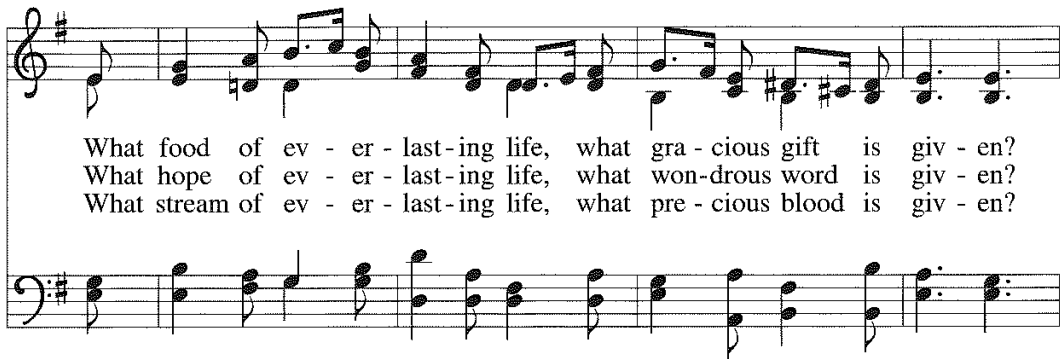
Communion Hymn

What Feast of Love

ELW 487



1 What feast of love is of - fered here, what ban - quet come from heav - en?
2 What light of truth is of - fered here, what cov - e - nant from heav - en?
3 What wine of love is of - fered here, what crim - son drink from heav - en?



What food of ev - er - last - ing life, what gra - cious gift is giv - en?
What hope of ev - er - last - ing life, what won - drous word is giv - en?
What stream of ev - er - last - ing life, what pre - cious blood is giv - en?



This, this is Christ the king, the bread come down from heav - en.
This, this is Christ the king, the sun come down from heav - en.
This, this is Christ the king, the sweet - est wine of heav - en.

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

Oh, taste and see and sing! How sweet the man - na giv - en!
 Oh, see and hear and sing! The Word of God is giv - en!
 Oh, taste and see and sing! The Son of God is giv - en!

Text: Delores Dufner, osb, b. 1939
 Music: English ballad, 16th cent.
 Text © 1993 Delores Dufner, admin. OCP Publications

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Communion Blessing

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.

Eighth Lesson

Revelation 1:4-8 I AM the Alpha and the Omega

Blessing

** Sending Song

Cold December Flies Away

ELW 299



1 Cold De - cem - ber flies a - way at the rose - red splen - dor.
2 In the hope - less time of sin shad - ows deep had fall - en.
3 Now the bud has come to bloom, and the world a - wak - ens.



A - pril's crown - ing glo - ry breaks while the whole world won - ders
All the world lay un - der death. Eyes were closed in sleep - ing.
In the lil - y's pur - est flow'r dwells a won - drous fra - grance.



at the ho - ly un - seen pow'r of the tree which bears the
But, when all seemed lost in night, came the sun whose gold - en
And it spreads to all the earth from the mo - ment of its



flow'r. On the bless - ed tree blooms the red - dest flow'r. On the tree blooms the
light brings un - end - ing joy, brings the end - less joy of our hope, high - est
birth; and its beau - ty lives. In the flow'r it lives, in the flow'r, and it

** 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

Guest Musician:

Steve Schmidt

Assisting Minister:

Bob Linderman

Lectors:

Ann Dransfield, William Sperati, Michele Torchia

Altar Guild:

Karleen Strayer

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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