



St. Stephen Lutheran Church

Love God, Love People, Form Faith.

One of 13,000 Stephen Ministry Congregations Around the World

We believe that community is *beautiful* and *messy* and *fulfilling* and *conflicted* and...the POINT. God calls us together into community for the sake of one another, our neighbors, and creation. We don't always get it right, but we trust that when we center the love and grace that Jesus taught, we will get it right more often than not. ***You are welcome here!***

We don't expect perfect, put-together people; we don't want you to conform to us and our ways; we want you to show up as who you are and to experience the love and grace of God as we have experienced it. And we hope that once you do, you will join us in sharing it with others too.



Third Sunday of Advent
Dec 15, 2024

For Your Prayers - Dec 16-22, 2024

Lectionary readings for this week:

Monday: Numbers 16:1-19 Hebrews 13:7-17 Isaiah 11:1-9

Tuesday: Numbers 16:20-35 Acts 28:23-31 Isaiah 11:1-9

Wednesday: Micah 4:8-13 Luke 7:31-35 Isaiah 11:1-9

Thursday: Jeremiah 31:31-34 Hebrews 10:10-18 Psalm 80:1-7

Friday: Isaiah 42:10-18 Hebrews 10:32-39 Psalm 80:1-7

Saturday: Isaiah 66:7-11 Luke 13:31-35 Psalm 80:1-7

Next Sunday's Lessons: Micah 5:2-5a; Psalm: Luke 1:46b-55; Hebrews 10:5-10;
Luke 1:39-45 [46-55]

Join your prayers for healing with God's desires for **Ed Brown, Kristin Carter, Marcie Clark, Bob & Ginny Cummings, Jack Harris, Sharon Jacobs, Donna Kittelson, Jim Mayfield, Carole Meyer, Helen Nelsen, Paul Reier and George Vonderheide.**

Pray for those unable to come to worship: **Martin Bleck, Ed Brown, Birdie Burton, York Doerr, Bob and Angie Groom, Pat Janot, Marilyn Johnson, Jeanne Nelson, Darlene Simon, and Kay Wasaff.**

Pray for these loved ones of our congregation: Susan, Charles Baugh, Donald and Carol Baum, , Eleftheria Beck, Tom Beck, Sally Blackburn, June Brantley, Linda Bonfiglio, Mary Bloom, Amy Carl, Karin Cavanaugh, Chris Clarke, Amaree Cluff, Ruth Ann Coski, Judy Craun, Ginny Cummings, Judy Drezek, Becky Drury, Darrin and Rosemary Dunn, Time Ebel, Tanya Fritz, David Gade, Joel Gillespie, Greg Gildner, Joan and John Goodhart, Charee Hampton, Sue Hassan and family, Andy Havola, Nick Havola, Bradley Kim Joan and Laurie Heintzeman, Lisa Hill, Jaxon Ireland, Claudia Jacobik, Brian Johnson, Don Johnson, Connie Kendrick, The Kennedy family, Marnah Lund, Trish and Sara and Matthew Macerelli, Keara Mahony, Laura Margolin, Jack Mayfield, Doug MacKenzie, The Keith Meins family, Liz Montalvo, Ed Moninger, Mya Moore, Kim Morris, Bob Myers, Coral Pumley, Kurt Recktenwald, Kurtis Schultz, Lou Schuster, Inge Seiter, Pamela Sharp, Chad Strausbaugh, Al Stern, Monika Stern, Charley Underdahl, Brenda Webster, Caleb Winig, and Elaine Wrich.

Third Sunday of Advent

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

Welcome

Centering Music

Lullaby

Lynette L. Maynard

Advent Wreath Lighting

Advent's Holy Light

(on cue)

Lord, we are wait - ing for peace to reign.

Lord, we are lis - tening for love's re - frain.

For hope, peace, and joy and love to u -

nite in the beau - ty and won - der of

Ad - vent's ho - ly light.

The musical score is written on five staves in 3/4 time with a key signature of two flats (Bb and Eb). The lyrics are: "Lord, we are wait - ing for peace to reign. Lord, we are lis - tening for love's re - frain. For hope, peace, and joy and love to u - nite in the beau - ty and won - der of Ad - vent's ho - ly light." The score includes various musical notations such as quarter notes, eighth notes, and rests.

THIRD SUNDAY – Joy (*The first, second and third candles are lit.*)

Leader: Today the candle representing Joy joins the candles of Hope and Peace. As we light this third candle, let the joy of the season fill our hearts. May we find joy in simple moments, and may that joy bring a sense of peace and well being into our lives.

When we think of the countless blessings that fill our lives

Our hearts are filled with joy.

For the warmth of relationships and the bonds we share with family and friends

Our hearts are filled with joy.

When we pause to appreciate the beauty and wonder of nature

Our hearts are filled with joy.

For the giving and receiving of simple acts of kindness
Our hearts are filled with joy.

Gracious Creator, teach us to find joy not only in triumphs but also in the simple moments of everyday grace. Fill us with joy that surpasses circumstance, anchored in the unchanging truth of your love. Help us share this joy with others and may joy and laughter be a constant companion on our journey through life. **Amen.**

Repeat “Advent’s Holy Light”

(on cue)



Lord, we are wait - ing for peace to reign.
Lord, we are lis - tening for love's re - frain.
For hope, peace, and joy and love to u -
nite in the beau - ty and won - der of
Ad - vent's ho - ly light.

The image shows five staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are printed below each staff, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Gathering Hymn

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn

ELW 242

Bulletin page 13

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.**

Kyrie

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord,

Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy. Lord,

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy, have mer - cy.

Prayer of the Day

Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

II. Word: *God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song*

First Reading

Zephaniah 3:14-20

The prophet Zephaniah's message is mostly one of judgment for sin. This reading, however, which comes from the conclusion of the book, prophesies joy for Judah and Jerusalem. Judgment has led to repentance, and God's salvation is at hand.

¹⁴ Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! ¹⁵ The LORD has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. ¹⁶ On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. ¹⁷ The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing ¹⁸ as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. ¹⁹ I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. ²⁰ At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the LORD.

Reader: "The Word of the Lord." Response: "Thanks be to God."

Psalm Hymn *Surely God Is My Salvation*

ACS 926
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Second Reading

Philippians 4:4-7

Despite being in prison, Paul is remarkably upbeat as he writes this letter. Here, he urges his friends in Philippi to trust God with all their worries and concerns with the hope that they will experience God's joy and peace.

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵ Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Reader: "The Word of the Lord." Response: "Thanks be to God."

(8:30) Gospel

Luke 3:1-6

John the Baptist heralds the mighty one who is coming. John teaches that preparation for God's reign is not a matter of identity but of bearing fruits of merciful justice, radical generosity, and vocational integrity.

Response after announcement of the Gospel: “Glory to you, O Lord.”

⁷ John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?” ⁸ Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ⁹ Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.” ¹⁰ And the crowds asked him, “What then should we do?” ¹¹ In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.” ¹² Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” ¹³ He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.” ¹⁴ Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what should we do?” He said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.” ¹⁵ As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶ John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷ His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.” ¹⁸ So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

Response at the conclusion of the Gospel: “Praise to you, O Christ.”

(8:30) Sermon

“Made for compassion”

Pastor Jon Nelson

Silence for prayer and reflection.

(11:00) Children’s Christmas Program

A dramatic reading of Luke 1 & 2 from the Contemporary English Version and The Message Version of scripture.

Opening: “Oh, Come, Little Children”

From “*Come to the Manger*”

Lynn Shaw Bailey and Becki Slagle Mayo

(Triangle: Walker Harms; Finger Cymbal: Mira Powell; Tambourine: David Nelson; Claves: Sonja Cave)

(Congregation Sings)

Oh, come, little children, oh, come, one and all!

Oh, come to the manger in Bethlehem’s stall.

The bright star will guide us and show us the way

To Jesus, our Savior, asleep on the hay.

Dramatic reading of Luke 1:5-56

Youth Actors

Song: “Holy Jesus Child” (*Chimes: Sonja Cave and Magnolia Sulouff*) Mark Patterson
Sonja Cave, Soloist

Dramatic reading of Luke 2:1-20

Youth Actors

Narrator: That night in the fields near Bethlehem some shepherds were guarding their sheep. ... You will know who he is, because you will find him dressed in baby clothes and lying on a bed of hay.” Angels & Congregation: **“Praise God in heaven! Peace on earth to everyone who pleases God.”**

Narrator: As the angel choir withdrew into heaven, the shepherds talked it over.

Shepherds& Congregation: **Let’s get over to Bethlehem as fast as we can and see for ourselves what God has revealed to us. ...**

Sing We Now of Jesus (*Chimes: Sonja Cave, Klara Cave, Walker Harms, David Nelson; Triangle: Evelyn Judy*)

Faith Formation Choir

(Congregation Sings on 3rd Repeat)

Sing we now of Jesus, born on Christmas day.

Sing we now of Jesus, born on a bed of hay.

Lift up your voice, with all the world rejoice;

Sing we now of Jesus, born to light our way.

Pianist: Erika Cave

Narrator – David Nelson

Zachariah – Walker Beatty

Elizabeth – Sonja Cave

Gabriel - Penelope Sulouff

Mary – Evelyn Judy

Joseph – Coleman Beatty

Angels –Mira Powell and Magnolia Sulouff

Shepherds – Klara Cave and Matthias Hallman

Choir: Coleman Beatty, Walker Beatty, Klara Cave, Sonja Cave, Mathias Hallman, Evelyn Judy, David Nelson, Mira Powell, Magnolia Sulouff, Penelope Sulouff

Hymn of the Day (8:30)

Hark, the Glad Sound

ELW 239

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Prayers

Each petition concludes, “Lord, in your mercy,” Response: “receive our prayer.”

III. Meal: God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

Offering

Offerings are gathered for the mission of the church: preaching and teaching the good news of our salvation through the death and resurrection of Christ, and caring for the poor. During the offering, the table is set for the Lord's Supper.

Offering of Music **8:30**
 11:00

O Come, O Come, Immanuel
How Beautiful the Messenger

N. Sleeth
W. Wold

Offertory Prayer

Creator God, you made the whole world, even the farthest stars, and you draw near to feed us. We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine. Strengthen us with this food that we may live in expectation for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

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.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; ... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,

ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,

heav-en and earth are full, full of your glo - ry.

Ho - san - na in the high - est, 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.

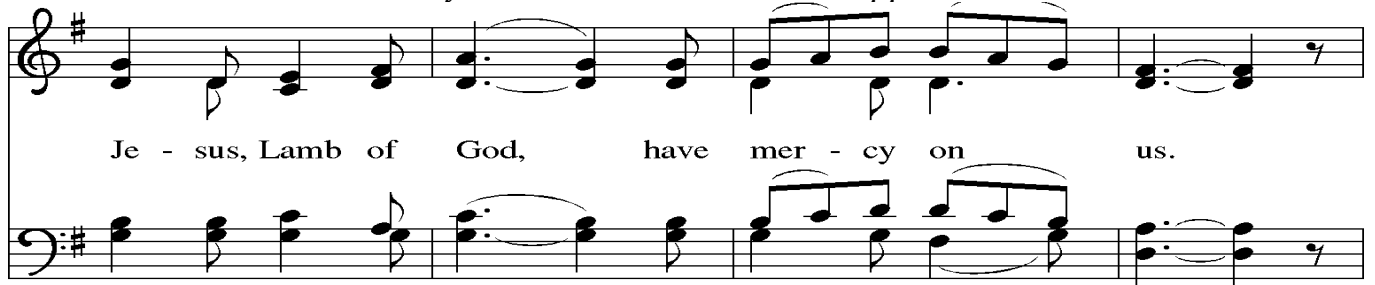
Words of Institution

The 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.

Holy Communion


When receiving Communion, either stand or kneel at the Rail. Pastor will distribute the bread and a Communion Assistant will come with a tray of pre-filled cups of wine and grape juice. The juice will be in the middle of the tray. Gluten-free wafers are available as an alternative to bread. St. Stephen is a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, so all are welcome to receive Christ's body and blood in the Lord's Supper.



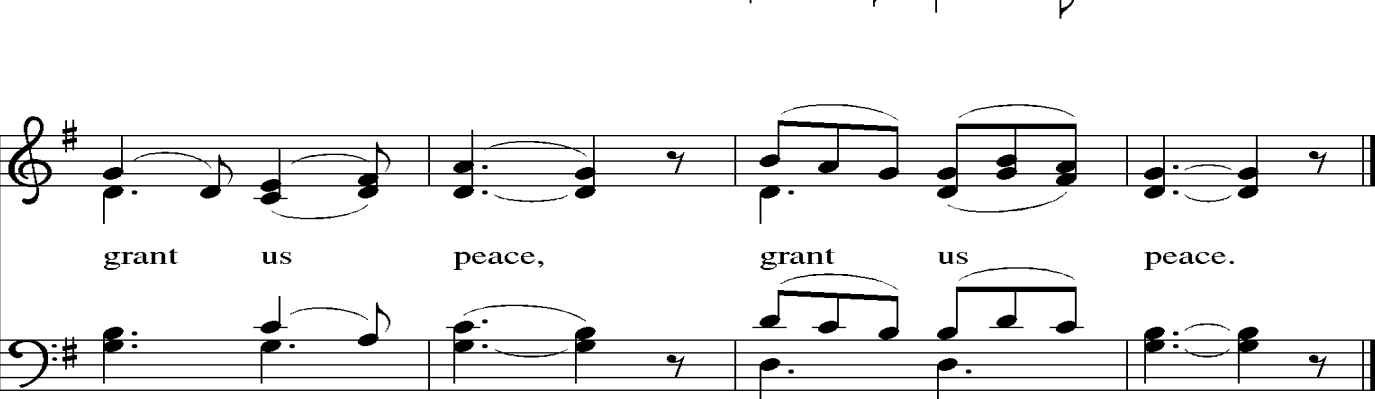
Je - sus, Lamb of God, have mer - cy on us.



Je - sus, bear - er of our sins, have mer - cy on us.



Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world,



grant us peace, grant us peace.

Communion Music 11:00 *O Christmas Tree* Traditional
David Nelson
11:00 *Angels We Have Heard on High* Traditional
Sonja Cave, Flute

Communion Hymn *Now the Heavens Start to Whisper* ACS 901
In Silence We Wait Bulletin page16
ACS 998
Bulletin page17

Table Blessing

Prayer after Communion

Faithful God, you have spread before us a feast of rich food and drink in the body and blood of your Son. Now send us out to labor with you, in service to the world you have made, and among the people you have made your home, in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

IV. Sending: *God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world*

Sending Hymn

In Thee is Gladness

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Blessing

**God of endings and beginnings,
God in the darkness and the light,
God, our hope for the journey,
✠ bless and keep you now and forever.
Amen.**

Dismissal

Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

In Thee is Gladness

Anne Krentz Organ

Copyright Information

SUO GAN – piano(lullaby); Contributors: Lynette Maynard
Tune: Setting © 2010 Augsburg Fortress

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel; Contributors: Natalie Sleeth
Tune: Setting © 1996, Choristers Guild

How Beautiful the Messenger; Contributors: Wayne L Wold
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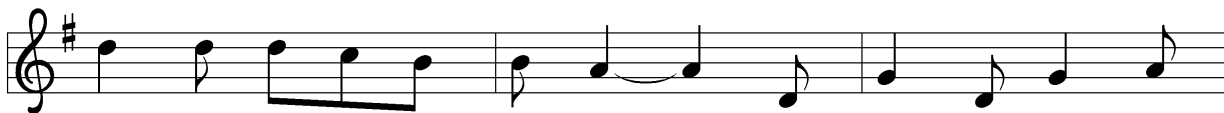
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Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn



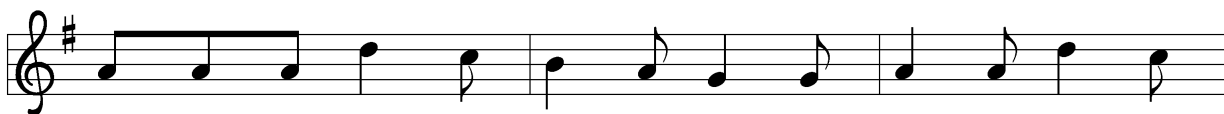
1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for
 2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -
 3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when
 4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, though



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.

Surely God Is My Salvation



1 Sure - ly God is my sal - va - tion,
 2 Thus with joy you shall draw wa - ter
 3 Tell the na - tions of God's glo - ry,



I will trust and shall not fear. God the Lord is
 from sal - va - tion's wells and springs. Sing your thanks to
 make this known in all the earth. Praise the Lord, the



strong and might - y, my sal - va - tion true.
 God Al - might - y for these won - drous deeds.
 God of Is - rael, call up - on God's name.

Refrain



Shout a-loud and sing for joy, O daugh-ter Zi - on!



Great in your midst is the Lord, the Ho - ly One!



Shout a-loud and sing for joy, O daugh-ter Zi - on!



Great in your midst is the Lord, the Ho - ly One!

Text: Zebulon M. Highben, b. 1979, based on Isaiah 12:2-6

Music: YISREAL V'ORAITA, Hasidic melody

Text © 2009 Augsburg Fortress

Hark, the Glad Sound!

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.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702-1751

Music: CHESTERFIELD, Thomas Haweis, 1734-1820

Now the Heavens Start to Whisper



1 Now the heav - ens start to whis - per, as the veil is grow - ing thin.
2 Heav - y clouds that block the moon - light now be - gin to drift a - way.
3 Christ, e - ter - nal Sun of jus - tice, Christ, the rose of wis - dom's seed,



Earth from slum - ber wakes to lis - ten to the stir - ring, faint with - in:
Dia - mond bril - liance through the dark - ness shines the hope of com - ing day.
come to bless with fire and fra - grance hours of yearn - ing, hurt, and need.



seed of prom - ise, deep - ly plant - ed, child to spring from Jes - se's stem!
Christ, the morn - ing star of splen - dor, gleams with - in a world grown dim.
In the lone - ly, in the strang - er, in the out - cast, hid from view;



Like the soil be - neath the frost - line, hearts grow soft to wel - come him.
Heav - en's em - ber fans to full - ness; hearts grow warm to wel - come him.
Child who comes to grace the man - ger, teach our hearts to wel - come you.



Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953
Music: SUO GÂN, Welsh melody; arr. hymnal version
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Arr. © 2020 Augsburg Fortress

In Silence We Wait

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'In Silence We Wait'. It consists of two staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the hymn: 'In si - lence we wait, in dark - ness you'. The second staff contains the melody for the second line: 'come to us; bring us your light.'. The lyrics are printed below the notes.

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

Text: Susan Masters, b. 1957

Music: IN SILENCE WE WAIT, Susan Masters

Text and music © 2009 Augsburg Fortress



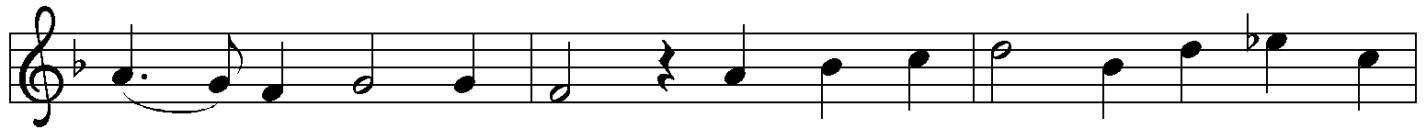
In Thee Is Gladness



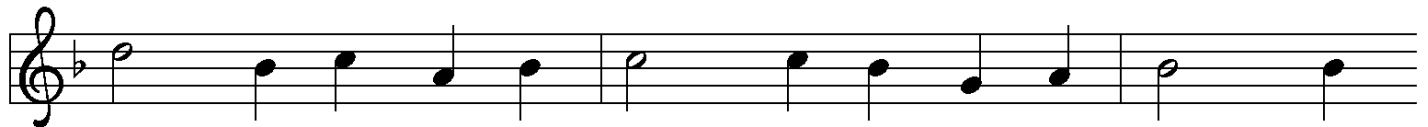
1 In thee is glad-ness a-mid all sad-ness, Je - sus, sun - shine of my
2 Je - sus is ours! . . . We fear no pow - ers, not of earth or sin or



heart. By thee are giv - en the gifts of heav - en, thou the
death. He sees and bless - es in worst dis - tress - es; he can



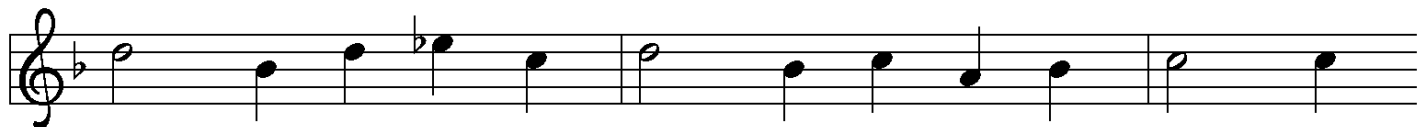
true re - deem - er art. Our souls thou wak - est; our bonds thou
change them with a breath. Where-fore the sto - ry tell of his



break - est. Who trusts thee sure - ly has built se - cure - ly
glo - ry with heart and voic - es; all heav'n re - joic - es



and stands for - ev - er: Al - le - lu - ia! Our hearts are
in him for - ev - er: Al - le - lu - ia! We shout for



pin - ing to see thy shin - ing, dy - ing or liv - ing,
glad - ness, tri - umph o'er sad - ness, love him and praise him



to thee are cleav - ing; naught can us sev - er: Al - le - lu - ia!
and still shall raise him glad hymns for - ev - er: Al - le - lu - ia!

As We Gather

Restrooms & First Aid

- ❖ A gender-neutral, family restroom and a Women's restroom can be found in the hallway behind our Worship Space.
- ❖ Additional Men's and Women's restrooms can be found on the lower level of the church building.
- ❖ A first aid kit and an A.E.D. can be found hanging on the wall in the hallway behind our Worship Space.

Live-streaming

- ❖ We regularly live-stream our services and cannot guarantee that you will not appear on our YouTube channel. Sitting in the East Wing or the NE section of the Worship Space will minimize your chances of being on screen. We can also bring communion to you if you inform an usher of that desire.

Parents! Thanks for bringing your children to worship.

- ❖ Did you know that intergenerational worship is the single most important activity encouraging children's faith formation? (See vibrantfaith.org)
- ❖ When parents and children need to take a break for a few minutes, there's a play area (aka "playground") with toys and books in the East wing of the Worship Space.
- ❖ Age-appropriate activity bags are available in the Gathering Space – ask an usher for assistance.

Assistance is Available for You:

- ❖ **An induction loop** is provided for the benefit of hearing aid users. To use, please switch your hearing aid to "T."
- ❖ **Large print** worship materials are available – ask an usher.

Health Update: We always encourage you to monitor yourself for symptoms of illness and to worship from home if you are experiencing any. We have masks and hand sanitizer available for use in our building should you require.

What's Happening Today

Flowers this morning are given today by Jim Weilmuenster in memory of Sue Blanks Weilmuenster!

Upcoming

Committee chairs, Council officers and staff: Annual Reports for 2024 are due to the church office no later than **Monday, December 23**. Please send your annual reports electronically to Parish Administrator Hollie Jones

A note from the financial secretary: All donations for 2024 must be received by **Sunday, December 29**. Any donations that come in after that date will be credited to 2025. And if you procrastinated it's not too late to turn in an estimate of giving card for 2025. Questions—you can reach me at finsec@saintstephenlutheran.net
Karen Nester, Financial Secretary

New Women's Group Beginning in January. Sessions will be on the second **Thursday of each month**. We will offer both an afternoon and an evening session. **First Session: Thursday, January 9, 2025; Location: St. Stephen library; Choice of Times: 12:30-2:00 PM or 7:00-8:30 PM. No registration required. Just come and bring a friend!** If you want to join the new group but foresee a barrier to accessibility keeping you from doing so, please let us know and we will do our best to support your participation. Questions? Reach out to Ina Berkey.

Christmas Caroling. We will go Christmas Caroling on **Sunday, December 22 starting at 2:30 PM**. Please arrive at the church at 2:30 PM we will then Carol from 3-5pm once we have our established groups and rides. Groups of carolers will then visit Brookdale, The Landing and a couple of families of our congregation, singing to them.

Have Fun and Support our St. Stephen Preschool during our annual Winter Carnival **Sunday, January 12, 2:00 – 4:00 PM**. Would you like to bake a festive cake or cookies! See the insert and mark the white sheet if you're able to help!

Preschool & Church Office Closed. The Church Office will be closed **December 24 - January 2** and the Preschool will be closed from **December 23 - January 3**. Pastor Jon is always available via cell phone should you need!

Advent and Christmas Sunday & Midweek services

- ❖ **8:30 AM** December 15 Advent 3
- ❖ **11:00 AM** December 15 Advent 3 Children's Program
- ❖ **7:00 PM** Dec 18th-Restore Our Hope- midweek service
- ❖ **8:30 AM & 11:00 AM** December 22 Advent 4 (Caroling **3PM-5PM** meet at the church at 2:30 PM)
- ❖ **7:00 PM** Dec 24th Christmas Eve
(Worship featuring sermon, choirs, and Holy Communion)
- ❖ **10:00 PM** Dec 24th Christmas Eve
(Contemplative Worship Service with Holy Communion)
- ❖ **9:45 AM** Dec 29th Service of Lessons and Carols w/Holy Communion

Our worship service is available on our website www.saintstephenlutheran.net, click on “Worship with Us” and “Services.”

SUNDAY, Dec 15 – Third Sunday of Advent

- 8:30 AM** **Worship – Holy Communion (live-streamed on our YouTube channel)**
9:45 AM Matins Choir Rehearsal (Worship Space)
9:50 AM AOB/HS: Spiritual Practice (College Room)
10:00 AM Faith Formation: Christmas Program rehearsal (Worship Space)
11:00 AM **Worship – Holy Communion (Children’s program) (live-streamed on our Facebook page)**

MONDAY, Dec 16

- 10:00 AM Staff Meeting (Pastor’s Office)
1:30 PM Bible Study (Library/Conference Room)

TUESDAY, Dec 17

- 7:00 PM Preschool Committee meeting (library/Conference room)

WEDNESDAY, Dec 18

- 6:45 PM Chancel Rehearsal (Fellowship Hall)
7:00PM **Worship “Restore our Hope” (Worship Space)**
7:30-8:20PM Christmas Choir Rehearsal (Worship Space)
7:00 PM AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

THURSDAY, Dec 19

- 9:30 AM Preschool Christmas program (Bear and Frog class)
11:00 AM Bulletin Review (Library/Conference room)
5:15-6:30 PM Handbell Rehearsal (Worship Space)

FRIDAY, Dec 20

- 9:30 AM Preschool Christmas program (Hippo and Giraffe class)

SATURDAY, Dec 21

- 5:30 PM AA Meeting (Library/Conference Room)
5:30 PM Al-ANON Family Meeting (Gathering space)

SUNDAY, Dec 22– Fourth Sunday of Advent

- 8:30 AM** **Worship – Holy Communion (live-streamed on our YouTube channel)**
9:45 AM Christmas Choir Rehearsal (Worship Space)
11:00 AM **Worship – Holy Communion (live-streamed on our Facebook page)**
2:30 PM Meet at church for Caroling

Leading our Worship and Hospitality Today

Acolyte/Crucifer..... (8:30) Bill Dichtel
.....(11:00) Alina Dabel
Altar Guild(8:30) Sandi Witt and Diane McCurry
.....(11:00) Heidi Flatin
Audio-Visual Team..... (8:30) Nancy Carter & Tim Judy (11:00) Tobias & Liam Janke
Communion Assistants(8:30) Paula Agor and Karen Sanderlin
..... (11:00) Cyndy Touhsaent and Pam Buckley
Flower DeliveryKaren Nester
Greeters/Hosts (8:30) JR & Diana Lyons (11:00) Linda Vonderheide
Lectors.....(8:30) John McCurry (11:00) Keith Egloff
Preacher.....Pastor Jon Nelson
Tellers.....Jeanne Garrison, Linda Vonderheide
Ushers..... (8:30) George Martin and Tom Witt (11:00) Russ Dabel and Glenn Joppa

St. Stephen Lutheran Church

612 Jamestown Road, Williamsburg, Virginia 23185

www.saintstephenlutheran.net

(757) 229-6688

Love God, Love People, Form Faith.

(St. Stephen Lutheran Church Vision Statement)

All of Us, Called Through Our Baptisms

Pastor Jon Nelson (320-295-8861)

Karen Ives – Director of Music (757-229-6688)

Hollie Jones – Parish Administrator (757-229-6688)

Jessica Kimball -Preschool Director (757-229-6688)

Peninsula Pastoral Counseling Center (757-873-2273; counselors are in Williamsburg on Thursdays)

Doing Ministry in the World

Pastorjn@saintstephenlutheran.net

MusicDir@saintstephenlutheran.net

Office@saintstephenlutheran.net

Preschool@saintstephenlutheran.net

Welcome to St. Stephen Lutheran Church!

Please fill this out and drop it in the offering plate

or give it to an usher.

Dec 15, 2024

Name: _____

For guests and members with changes:

Address (Home) _____

City/State _____ Zip _____

Telephone # _____

E-Mail Address _____

Guests Only:

I belong to _____

Church Address _____

Please check as many as pertain:

____ Member

____ First time guest

____ Regular guest

____ Guest (out of town)

____ Student at William & Mary

____ Looking for a church home

____ Desire to speak with pastor

____ Would like more information about Stephen Ministry

____ Would like a Stephen Minister to contact me

Any comments? Please be sure your name is above, so we may respond, if necessary.

Prayer Requests

Please **add** to the prayer list in this month's bulletin and next month's *Quill*:

Name: _____

Please **remove** from prayer concerns:

Name: _____

_____ I/We need a name tag: _____

_____ I will bake/bring a festive cake for the Winter carnival

_____ I will bake/bring festive cookies or deserts for the Winter carnival

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