

# St. Stephen Lutheran Church

A member congregation of the Church of the Lutheran Confession

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**Wednesday Advent Worship Service  
December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

Greeting and Opening Prayer

Opening Hymn: 354 *Arise, O Christian People*

LSB 354



1 A - rise, O Chris - tian peo - ple! Pre - pare your - selves to -  
2 Pre - pare the way be - fore Him; Pre - pare for Him the  
3 The hum - ble heart and low - ly God rais - es up on  
4 Pre - pare my heart, Lord Je - sus; Turn not from me a -

day; Pre - pare to greet the Sav - ior, Who takes your  
best. Cast out what would of - fend Him, This great, this  
high; Be - neath His feet in ter - ror The haugh - ty  
side, And help me to re - ceive You This bless - ed

sins a - way. To us by grace a - lone The  
heav'n - ly guest. Make straight, make plain the way: The  
soul shall lie. The heart sin - cere and right, That  
Ad - vent - tide. From stall and man - ger low Come

truth and light were giv - en; The prom - ised Lord from  
low - ly val - leys rais - ing, The heights of pride a -  
heeds God's in - vi - ta - tion And makes true prep - a -  
now to dwell with - in me; I'll sing Your prais - es

heav - en To all the world is shown.  
bas - ing, His path all e - ven lay.  
ra - tion— It is the Lord's de - light.  
glad - ly And forth Your glo - ry show.

Text: Valentin Thilo, 1607–62; tr. Arthur T. Russell, 1806–74, alt.  
Tune: New Catechismus Gesangbüchlein, 1598, Hamburg, alt.  
Text and tune: Public domain



### **Welcome! Please join us for our Christmas Cookie Exchange After the Service**

We hope that our worship service tonight was a blessing to you as we continue to prepare our hearts for our coming Savior. After the service we will gather in the fellowship hall for Christmas cookies and fellowship. Please join us!

#### **Christmas Season Worship Schedule 2022**

**Christmas Eve – Sat. Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>** – 5pm (Mt. View) – Christmas Eve Joint Worship  
& Children's Program

**Christmas Day – Sun. Dec. 25<sup>th</sup>** – 10am (Mt. View) Christmas Day Worship  
1pm (Hayward)



### **Advent Invocation**

*We invoke ("call upon") the name of the one true God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.*

- P** In the name of the Triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

### **Confession and Absolution**

*We come before our Holy God recognizing that we are sinful and daily need His forgiveness.*

- P** Jesus is the Light of the World, and in Him is no darkness at all.
- C** **If we walk in the light as He is in the light,  
we have fellowship with one another,  
and the blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son, cleanses us from all sin.**
- P** In this Advent season we celebrate the *coming* of Jesus, the Light of the World.
- C** **Dear Jesus, we celebrate Your coming at Your birth in Bethlehem.  
We thank You for coming into our hearts by Your gift of faith,  
and we look forward to Your coming on the Last Day when You will take us,  
and all believers, to be with You forever in heaven.**
- P** As we meditate on Your manger, Your cross, Your empty tomb, and Your Word,  
we come before Your throne today confessing our sins and asking for Your forgiveness.
- C** **Lord of heaven and earth, forgive us all our sins.  
As we see the world in darkness and in need of Your light,  
increase our faith, love, courage, and strength.  
Give us Your power to be lights in this world, reflecting Your love. Amen.**
- P** Our Father in Heaven has been good and merciful to us.  
In His love He has given us, His children, the greatest Gift: He sent His Son Jesus,  
the Christ Child, whose birth in Bethlehem so long ago we celebrate.  
Jesus came as a lowly servant to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins,  
and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. By His shed blood  
on the cross we are forgiven!

Advent Candle Lighting - #1 HOPE

We light the first Advent candle and recall the HOPE we have in Christ. On Christmas day Jesus Christ, our HOPE was born. On Good Friday He died. On Easter Sunday He rose from the dead. He proclaimed His victory over Satan. He then ascended into heaven. On the last day, He will come again to judge the quick and the dead. This is our faith and this is our HOPE as we await His return. We light this candle to remind us to be alert and to watch for His sure and certain return.



In peace and joy let us sing of our salvation!

357 v. 1, 6 “O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

LSB 357 v. 1, 6

1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som  
6 O come, Thou Day - spring from on high, And cheer us

cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly  
by Thy draw - ing night; Dis - perse the gloom - y

ex - ile here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
clouds of night, And death's dark shad - ows put to flight.

*Refrain*

Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el

Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

Text: Latin, c. 12th cent.; Psalterium Canticum Catholicum, 1710, Köln; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt. Tune: French, 15th cent.  
Text and tune: Public domain

Lord’s Prayer

LSB 209

- Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name,  
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven;  
give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Benediction *The blessing given by God for the blessing of His people (Numbers 6:24-26).*

- The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.  
Amen.

Closing Hymn: 363 *Silent Night, Holy Night* (by candlelight)

LSB 363

1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,  
2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake  
3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,

all is bright Round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.  
at the sight; Glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,  
love's pure light Ra - diant beams from Thy ho - ly face

Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, Sleep in heav - en - ly  
Heav'n - ly hosts sing, Al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is  
With the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at Thy

peace, Sleep in heav - en - ly peace.  
born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!  
birth, Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth.

Text: Franz Joseph Mohr, 1792–1848; tr. John F. Young, 1820–85  
Tune: Franz Xaver Gruber, 1787–1863  
Text and tune: Public domain

**Hymn: 384 v. 1, 2, 5 *Of the Father's Love Begotten*** (please stand for last verse)

1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten Ere the worlds be -  
2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, When the vir - gin,  
△ 5 Christ, to Thee, with God the Fa - ther, And, O Ho - ly

gan to be, He is Al - pha and O - me - ga,  
full of grace, By the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,  
Ghost, to Thee Hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing

He the source, the end - ing He, Of the things that are, that  
Bore the Sav - ior of our race, And the babe, the world's Re -  
And un - end - ing prais - es be, Hon - or, glo - ry, and do -

have been, And that fu - ture years shall see  
deem - er, First re - vealed His sa - cred face  
min - ion, And e - ter - nal vic - to - ry

Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
Ev - er - more and ev - er - more. A - men.

Text: Aurelius Prudentius Clemens, 348–c. 413; (sts. 1–2): tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.; (st. 5): tr. Henry W. Baker, 1821–77  
Tune: Plainsong, 13th cent., mode V  
Text and tune: Public domain

**Advent Prayer** *We bring our prayers to God.*

☞ **Dear Heavenly Father, we thank you for the HOPE, PEACE, and JOY you bring us. We also thank you for your gift of LOVE – shown to us perfectly in Jesus Christ our Lord. Help us prepare our hearts to receive Him. Bless our worship this Advent and Christmas season. Help us to hear and do Your Word. We ask it in the name of the One born in Bethlehem, Jesus our Savior, in whose name we also pray...**

**Apostles' Creed** *We boldly confess what we believe.*

LSB 207  
sts. 1–2, 5

☞ **I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.  
The third day He rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**Reading #1 – “Names of Christ” – Jesus** (from “Daily Rest” - Vol. 4 Number 4, p. 21)

**Advent Candle Lighting - #2 PEACE**

We light the second Advent candle, the candle of PEACE. Our HOPE is in God, and in His son Jesus Christ. Our PEACE is found only in Him. We light this candle to remind us that He brings PEACE to all who trust in Him.



**Hymn: 380 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing**

LSB 380

1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King;  
2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,  
3 Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righ-teous-ness!

Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"  
Late in time be - hold Him come, Off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.  
Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with heal - ing in His wings.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;  
Veiled in flesh the God - head see, Hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty!  
Mild He lays His glo - ry by, Born that man no more may die,

With the an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"  
Pleased as Man with man to dwell, Je - sus, our Im - man - u - el!  
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them sec - ond birth.

*Refrain*  
Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King!"

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–88, alt.  
Tune: Felix Mendelssohn, 1809–47  
Text and tune: Public domain

**Reading #2 – “Names of Christ” – Immanuel** (from “Daily Rest” - Vol. 4 Number 4, p. 22)

**Advent Candle Lighting - #3 JOY**

We light this candle to remember that Christ is the bringer of true and everlasting JOY. God wants us all to have this JOY. We light this candle to remind us to spread this joyful good news far and wide.



**Hymn: 387 v. 1, 2 Joy to the World**

LSB 387

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive her  
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let men their songs em -

King; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare Him  
ploy, While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and

room And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture  
plains Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing

sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.  
joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748  
Tune: George Frideric Handel, 1685–1759, adapt.  
Text and tune: Public domain

**Reading #3 – “Names of Christ” – Alpha & Omega** (from “Daily Rest” - Vol. 4 Number 4, p. 25)

**Advent Candle Lighting - #4 LOVE**

The fourth candle of Advent is the candle of LOVE. It's light is meant to remind us of the LOVE that God has for us. Jesus shows us God's perfect LOVE. He is God's LOVE in human form.

