# 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

P 0 1 A - rise, O Chris - tian peo - ple! Pre - pare your - selves to -2 Pre - pare the way Him; Pre - pare for Him the be - fore 3 The hum - ble heart and low - ly God rais - es up on 4 Pre - pare my heart, Lord Je -Turn not from me a sus; 6 greet the Sav - ior, Who takes your day; Pre - pare to best. Cast out what would of - fend Him, This great, this high; Be - neath His feet The haugh - ty in ter - ror And help me This bless - ed side. to re - ceive You ╡Ѯ -0 . То by grace a - lone The sins a - way. us Make straight, make plain the way: heav'n-ly guest. The soul shall lie. The heart sin - cere and right, That Ad - vent - tide. From stall and man - ger low Come . 0 truth and light were giv en; The prom - ised Lord from -The heights of pride a -- ing, low - ly val - leys rais heeds God's in - vi - ta tion And makes true prep - a -sing Your prais - es to dwell with - in I'll now me; 0 world is То all shown. heav \_ en the His all lay. bas ing, path e - ven tion-It is the Lord's de light. ra And Your glo - ry ly forth show. glad -

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

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

1pm (Hayward)

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



# **Advent Invocation**

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

 ${\rm I\!\!P}$  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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

 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.

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 10 come. O come, Em - man u - el. And ran - som ίŏ come, Thou Day-spring from on high, And cheer us That mourns in lone - ly - tive Is ra - el, cap bv Thv draw ing nigh; Dis - perse the gloom - y ile here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear. to flight. ex And death's dark shad - ows of night, clouds put Refrain Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man u - el -0 Is el! Shall come to thee, ra -

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

**C** 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.

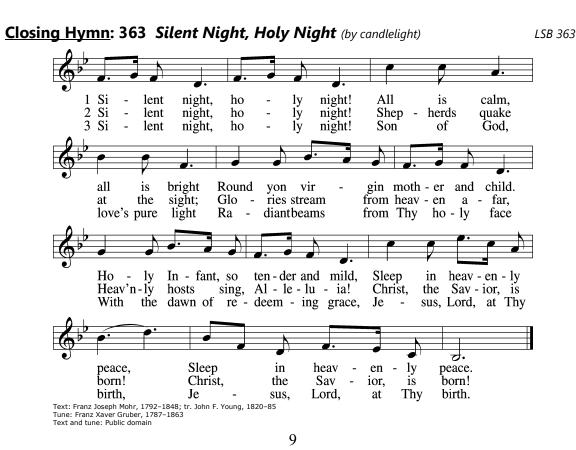
**Benediction** The blessing given by God for the blessing of His people (Numbers 6:24-26).

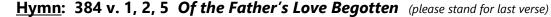
**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.

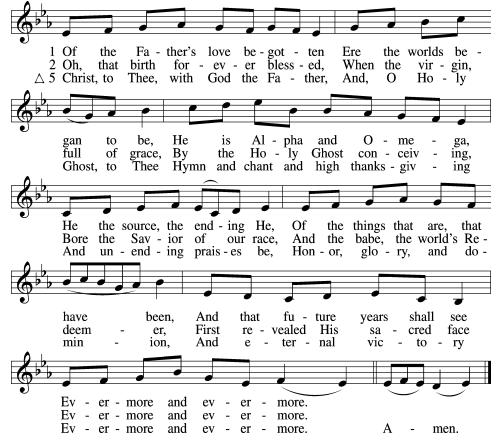
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and + give you peace.

**G** Amen.







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.

C 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.

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.



LSB 207



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

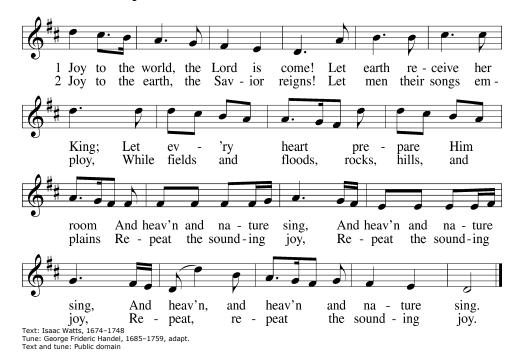
Advent Candle Lighting - #3 JOY

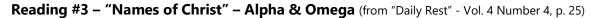
We light this candle to remember that Christ is the bringer of true and everlasting JOY. God wants us all to have this JOY. We light this candle to remind us to spread this joyful good news far and wide.



LSB 380

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





### 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.

