



# St Stephen

a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
*The Rev. Robert G. Schaefer, Pastor*



Encouraging and  
strengthening faith in Jesus,  
and sharing the joy of God's love.

December 27, 2020

First Sunday of Christmas

10:15am

---

## MASS OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

---

### Introduction to the First Sunday of Christmas

*Today the Christmas season continues with the First Sunday of Christmas. We observe the tradition which comes from England in the middle ages of a Service of Lessons and Carols. The reading trace the promises of God for a mm the Old Testament to the promise fulfilled in the birth of Jesus Christ. We return to the house of God "to sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God," who has gifted us with a savior. As the festival continues, "let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts." It is Christmas, still.*



---

### Gathering

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

---

### Prelude

### WELCOME

***During this time the CDC and the Bishop's Office recommend against congregational singing. In the building, the ensemble will sing verses 1 and 2, on our behalf as the procession moves to the Advent wreath. The words and music are here for your meditation, please do not sing out loud.***

*The assembly stands to sing, turning to the altar as the cross passes by.*



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O  
 2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,  
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,  
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;  
 born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;  
 sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!  
 Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!



come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:  
 Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!  
 Glo - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:  
 Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

*Refrain*

*Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,*  
 O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,



*ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.*  
 O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711–1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–1880, sts. 1, 3–4; tr. unknown, st. 2  
 Music: ADESTE FIDELES, attr. John Francis Wade

**DIALOGUE**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be God, Father, ✙ Son, and Holy Spirit.

**And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

**The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**

Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.

**We have beheld Christ's glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.**

To us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

**In the Word was life, and the life was the light of all people.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray.

*A brief silence is kept, then the presiding minister leads the prayer.*

P: Almighty God, you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of the one who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*The assembly sits.*

## Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading and song.

## LESSONS AND CAROLS

*The assembly remains seated throughout the lessons and carols.*

*The ensemble sings all hymn verses on behalf of the assembly.*

*Each reading concludes with the words:*

The word of the Lord. *The assembly responds:* **Thanks be to God.**

*A brief silence follows each hymn.*

---

**Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7** *God promises a king*

### Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

ELW 272

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming  
from tender stem hath sprung!  
Of Jesse's lineage coming  
as seers of old have sung,  
it came, a flow'r so bright,  
amid the cold of winter,  
when half-spent was the night.

---

**Reading: Micah 5:2-5a** *The king will come from Bethlehem*

### O Little Town of Bethlehem

ELW 279

O little town of Bethlehem,  
how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
the silent stars go by;  
yet in thy dark streets shineth  
the everlasting light.  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
are met in thee tonight.

O holy child of Bethlehem,  
descend to us, we pray;  
cast out our sin, and enter in,  
be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
the great glad tidings tell;  
oh, come to us, abide with us,  
our Lord Immanuel!

---

**Reading: Luke 1:26-35, 38** *The annunciation to Mary*

**The Angel Gabriel from Heaven came**

**ELW 265**

1 The angel Gabriel from heaven came,  
with wings as drifted snow, with eyes as flame:  
"All hail to thee, O lowly maiden Mary,  
most highly favored lady." Gloria!

2 "For know a blessed mother thou shalt be,  
all generations laud and honor thee;  
thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,  
most highly favored lady." Gloria!

3 Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head;  
"To me be as it pleaseth God," she said.  
"My soul shall laud and magnify God's holy name."  
Most highly favored lady, Gloria!

4 Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born  
in Bethlehem all on a Christmas morn,  
and Christian folk throughout the world will ever  
say: "Most highly favored lady." Gloria!

---

**Reading: Luke 2:1-7** *The birth of Jesus*

**Infant holy, infant lowly**

**ELW 276**

Infant holy, infant lowly,  
for his bed a cattle stall;  
oxen lowing, little knowing  
Christ the child is Lord of all.  
Swiftly winging, angels singing,  
bells are ringing, tidings bringing:  
Christ the child is Lord of all!  
Christ the child is Lord of all!

---

**Reading: Luke 2:8-16** *The shepherds go to see the Savior*

**Angels, from the Realms of Glory**

**ELW 275**

1 Angels, from the realms of glory,  
wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
once you sang creation's story,  
now proclaim Messiah's birth:  
Come and worship, come and worship,  
worship Christ, the newborn king.

2 Shepherds, in the fields abiding,  
watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God with us is now residing,  
yonder shines the infant light.  
Come and worship, come and worship,  
worship Christ, the newborn king.

---

**Reading: Luke 2:21-36** *Jesus receives his name*

**That boy-child of Mary**

**ELW 293**

*Refrain*

That boy-child of Mary was born in a stable,  
a manger his cradle in Bethlehem.

1 What shall we call him, child of the manger?  
What name is given in Bethlehem? *Refrain*

**The First Noel**

**ELW 300**

1 The first Noel the angel did say  
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
in fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,  
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

*Refrain*

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!  
Born is the King of Israel.

2 They looked up and saw a star  
shining in the east beyond them far;  
and to the earth it gave great light,  
and so it continued both day and night. *Refrain*

**By all your saints**

**ELW 420**

All praise for infant martyrs,  
whom you with tend' rest love  
received from Herod's bloodshed  
to share your home above.  
O Rachel, cease your weeping;  
they rest from earthbound cares.  
Lord, grant us hearts as guileless  
and crowns as bright as theirs.

**Of the Father's love begotten**

**ELW 295**

Of the Father's love begotten  
ere the worlds began to be,  
he is Alpha and Omega,  
he the source, the ending he,  
of the things that are, that have been,  
and that future years shall see,  
evermore and evermore.

*The assembly stands to profess the creed.*

## NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven**

**and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come.**

**Amen.**

## RESPONSIVE PRAYER

*The assisting minister leads the prayers:*

It is you, loving God, who lights our path with truth.

**Your Word, Jesus, is truth.**

In his light, draw all to the manger  
**to gather in wonder with the shepherds.**

In his light, draw all to the manger  
**to kneel in reverence with the wise ones.**

In his light, draw all to the manger  
**to sing for joy with the angels.**

In the brightness of his life  
cast away the darkness of injustice, poverty, and hunger in the world.

It is you, loving God, who meets us on our way.  
In the light of Jesus, show the world the way of life. Amen.

## PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

*The assembly is seated.*

## MEAL

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

## Invitation to Offering

## SETTING THE TABLE

**The Offering Song, is sung by a leader on behalf of the assembly.**

**MUSICAL OFFERING:**

**Once in Royal David's City**

**ELW# 269**



1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly cat - tle shed,  
2 He came down to earth from heav - en who is God and Lord of all,  
3 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re - deem - ing love;  
4 Not in that poor low - ly sta - ble, with the ox - en stand - ing by,



where a moth - er laid her ba - by in a man - ger for his bed:  
and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall;  
for that child so dear and gen - tle is our Lord in heav'n a - bove;  
we shall see him; but in heav - en, set at God's right hand on high;



Mar - y was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle child.  
with the poor and meek and low - ly, lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.  
and he leads his chil - dren on to the place where he is gone.  
there his chil - dren gath - er round, bright like stars, with glo - ry crowned.

Text: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818-1895  
Music: IRBY, Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805-1876

## OFFERING PRAYER

A: Let us pray.

Holy God, your beauty shines forth from the manger and your love flows from the cross. As you gather us around these signs of your love come among us, warm us to extend your care among the hungry and all in need. We ask this through Christ the Lord.

C: Amen.

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*The presiding minister greets the assembly and invites all present to give thanks.*

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...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

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

*The presiding minister continues to give thanks:*

You are holy, O God of majesty, ...

...Great is the mystery of faith.

**Dying you destroyed our death,**

**rising you restored our life.**

**Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

... all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**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.

## Communion

*The bread is broken for the communion.*

P: This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Come to the table where Christ meets you. Eat, rejoice, and be glad!

*The assembly is seated.*

***The communion song is sung by a leader on behalf of the assembly.***

### Communion Song:

### It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

ELW# 282



1 It came up - on the mid - night clear, that glo - rious song of old,  
2 Still through the clo - ven skies they come with peace - ful wings un - furled,  
3 And you, be - neath life's crush - ing load, whose forms are bend - ing low,  
4 For lo! The days are has - t'ning on, by proph - ets seen of old,



from an - gels bend - ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold:  
and still their heav'n - ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world.  
who toil a - long the climb - ing way with pain - ful steps and slow:  
when with the ev - er - cir - cling years shall come the time fore - told,



“Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all - gra - cious king.”  
A - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hov - 'ring wing,  
look now, for glad and gold - en hours come swift - ly on the wing;  
when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen - dors fling,



The world in sol - emn still - ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.  
and ev - er o'er its ba - bel sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.  
oh, rest be - side the wea - ry road and hear the an - gels sing!  
and all the world give back the song which now the an - gels sing.

Text: Edmund H. Sears, 1810–1876  
Music: CAROL, Richard S. Willis, 1819–1900

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: Let us pray.

God of wonder, in Jesus we behold the light of the world come near.

As you have come among us now, send us out in joy, hastening to share the good news of your love. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit dwelling among us now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

# Sending

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

## BLESSING

P: May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ child. Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

***Verses 1 and 3 of the Sending Song is sung by the ensemble on behalf of the assembly. The assembly turns to face the cross as it passes by.***

## SENDING SONG:

## Go Tell It on the Mountain

ELW# 290



Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!



1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,  
2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when, lo, a - bove the earth  
3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born;



be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.  
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.  
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless-ed Christ-mas morn.

Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr., 1872–1925, stanzas, alt.  
Music: GO TELL IT, African American spiritual

## DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Share the joy of Christ.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## IN OUR PRAYERS...

In our prayers today are these members of our homebound and others of our parish family in need of healing: George, Carol Chmelynski, Lisa Castaneda, Kelly Jacobson, Carol Jacobson, Marti Stroberg, Dolores Lauterberg, Laurel Blake, Dorothy Johnson, James Loggins, Don Schutt, Normagene Richardson, Mildred Grady, Rosie & Jimmy Fennelli, Pat Engle.

## PRAYERS FOR FRIENDS OF THE PARISH

✠ Shauna Widman, Craig, Aiden, Chandler, Becky, Braemen, Cheryl, Robert, Janice, Jerry, Betty, Sharon, Rae, Carol, Taylor, Nettie, Ed, Donna, Kristi, and Milena ✠ Gene, Chris, Amanda, Betty, Joanna, Susan, Annette, Madison, Mason, Betty, Chuck, Denny, Bill, George, Jordan, Carol Patterson, Randy, Missy, Ted, Wanda, Greg, Jason, Melissa, Jon, Carolyne, Jim, Camille, Ann, and Valerie.

## IN A FACILITY OR HOMEBOUND:

Evelyn Braun – 6152 Verde Trail Room 106 Boca Raton, Fl. 33433

Jim Loggins - John Knox Village – Woodlands 700 SW 4th St, Pompano Beach, FL 33060

Bud Danker - 3020 N. Ridge Road Apartment W-316 Ellicott City, MD 21043.

## ***Welcome to in person worship!!! Please respect our guidelines:***

- We expect everyone to use face masks when in the building. If you forget your face covering, we have extras for you, but no one can enter the building without a face covering and they must be worn at all times except at the moment of communion. Face coverings and water bottles will be available near the entrance to the nave for those who need them.
- Offering plates will be placed on a stand as people enter and exit. Greeters will stand behind a table warmly welcoming worshippers from a distance.
- We continue to encourage electronic giving.
- Outside doors and bathroom doors will be propped open, so no one touches a doorknob or handle.
- Initially, following CDC guidelines, all congregational singing will be limited to an individual or ensemble who will sing on behalf of the assembly.
- For now, only the verbal greeting of Peace will be exchanged in the liturgy. Sharing the peace for now should be nothing more than exchanging a simple bow to those on your right and left.
- There will be one communion station, single file, following the ushers' directions and the markings on the floor to maintain social distancing. At the time of holy communion, exit the pew via the side isles, and go to the rear of the church. As you round the corner to the central isle there will be another touchless sanitizing station. Please sanitize your hands and proceed down the center isle to receive the sacrament following the floor markers. The pastor distributing the host will try to avoid touching communicants' hands as much as possible. Communicants are reminded to come forward with flat outstretched hands.
- Following the Liturgy, the pastor will be present outside the outer doors to greet people, but will remain socially distanced with no physical contact.

*From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2010 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Fortress Liturgies Annual License #24029. New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Hymns are covered by our license CCLI 2959830.*

# PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS



**Live Generously**  
TAKE HOLD OF THE LIFE THAT REALLY IS LIFE  
1 THIMOTHY 6:18-19

## 2021 Commitment Cards

It is not too late to be part of our LIVE GENEROUSLY fall stewardship emphasis. Estimate of Giving cards are in the back and can be placed in the box in the back of the church; brought to the office; or by mail to the church office.

## Offering Envelopes

2020 offering envelopes are available for pick up on the back table. If any other friends of the church who would like offering envelopes, please see Carol Jacobson.



## Change for Change Tower: Discretionary Fund

As the holidays approach, we dedicate the Change for Change Tower to support a new ongoing Pastor's Discretionary Fund. During this difficult time, it will allow the pastor to help with emergency needs in the community and in the congregation. This would include such things as emergency fuel for a stranded motorist, food vouchers for the hungry on a day the Holy Grill is not serving, bus passes, emergency overnight accommodations, or other special emergency needs that might arise. Please give generously to get this fund going. **Bring your loose change and bills to church and let's fill up the Change for Change Tower. You may give on line by following the link on our homepage at: [www.ststephenlutheran.net](http://www.ststephenlutheran.net)**

## Assisting at Worship today

*(w) will give the cup at communion.  
Thank you all for serving.*

	<u>December 27</u>
ASSISTING MINISTER	Carol Jacobson
CRUCIFER/ACOLYTE	Jake Waldecki
LECTOR	Sera Butz
USHER	Marsha Kibler
SOUND	Eric Castaneda
PROJECTION	George Arce

## Christmas is just beginning!

Join us at **10:15 am** each Sunday at the Holy Eucharist to celebrate the birth of the Savior throughout the season:

**December 27: First Sunday of Christmas**  
*A Service of Lessons and Christmas Carols*

**January 3: The Feast of the Epiphany**  
*Festival Liturgy welcoming the Magi*

**January 10: Feast of the Baptism of Jesus**  
*Festival Liturgy with Renewal of Baptism*  
*Conclusion of the Christmas Cycle*