

# St Stephen

**Lutheran Church, ELCA** 



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

**December 3, 2017** 

First Sunday of Advent

10:15am

Rev. Pedro Suarez, Bishop Rev. Dr. Sidney Nelson, Interim Pastor

#### —WE GATHER—

#### INTRODUCTION

Stir up your power, and come! The psalmist's plea in Psalm 80:2 has become familiar to us in the Advent prayers. Isaiah wants God to rip the heavens open. Both cry out for an apparently distant, angry God to show up, to save, to restore. When we hear Jesus describing the coming of the Son of Man with stars falling from heaven, it can sound dire and horrible, not like anything we would ever hope for. But when we really look at the suffering of people God loves, we can share the hope that God would tear open the heavens and come.

#### **WELCOME**

#### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity,  $\pm$  one God, who comes to wake us from sleep, who leads us into the light of grace.

C: Amen.

P: Let us prepare the way of the Lord by confessing our sin against God and neighbor. *Silence is kept for reflection.* 

P: Gracious God:

C: God of all time, we confess that we have not prepared for your merciful reign among us. We ignore our neighbors in need and fail in the labor of justice and peace. In your mercy forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your light and to seek the things that will endure until Christ comes again in glory. Amen.

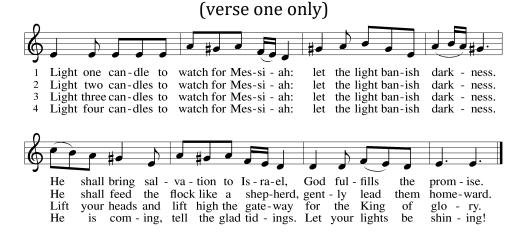
P: Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.

C: AMEN.

#### **OPENING SONG:**

#### **Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah**

**ELW #240** 



Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954 Music: TIF IN VELDELE, Yiddish folk tune Text © 1984 Fortress Press, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

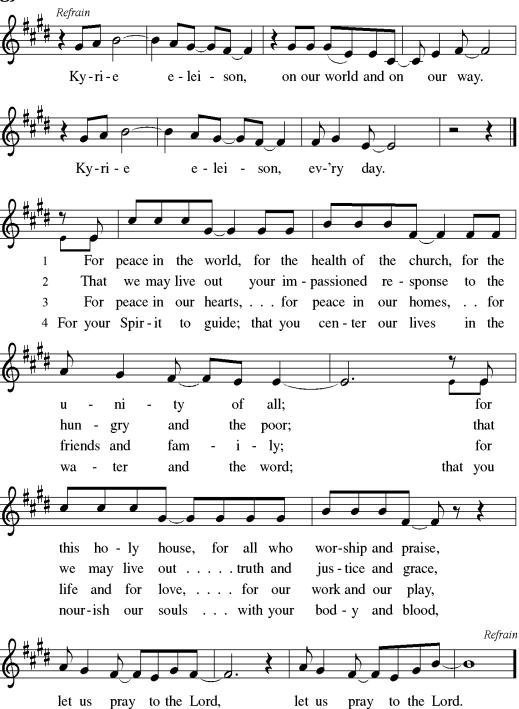
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#### THE GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

#### C: And also with you.

#### **KYRIE (Sung)**



#### HYMN OF PRAISE "This is the feast"



#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray together:

C: Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. AMEN

#### Children's message

#### —WE HEAR GOD'S WORD—

FIRST READING: Isaiah 64:1-9

¹O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence ²as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! ³When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. ⁴From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. ⁵You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. ⁶We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. ⁴Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. ⁴Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD, and do not remember iniquity forever.

Now consider, we are all your people.

L: This is the word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

#### PSALM (ELW): PSALM 80:1-7, 17-19

- <sup>1</sup>Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; shine forth, you that are enthroned up- on the cherubim.
- <sup>2</sup>In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, stir up your strength and come to help us.
- <sup>3</sup>Restore us, O God; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.
- <sup>4</sup>O LORD God of hosts, how long will your anger fume when your people pray?
- <sup>5</sup>You have fed them with the bread of tears; you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
- <sup>6</sup>You have made us the derision of our neighbors, and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
- <sup>7</sup>Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.
- <sup>17</sup>Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one you have made so strong for yourself.
- <sup>18</sup>And so will we never turn away from you; give us life, that we may call up- on your name.
- $^{19}\mbox{Restore}$  us, O LORD God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

#### SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

<sup>3</sup>Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup>I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, <sup>5</sup>for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—<sup>6</sup>just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—<sup>7</sup>so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>8</sup>He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup>God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

L: This is the word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

P: Please Rise for the Gospel Acclamation.

#### THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION "Alleluia"



P: The Holy Gospel, according to St. Mark, the 13th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord!

#### **GOSPEL: Mark 13:24-37**

[Jesus said:] <sup>24</sup>"In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, <sup>25</sup>and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. <sup>26</sup>Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. <sup>27</sup>Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. <sup>28</sup>"From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. <sup>29</sup>So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. <sup>30</sup>Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. <sup>31</sup>Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. <sup>32</sup>"But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

<sup>33</sup>Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. <sup>34</sup>It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. <sup>35</sup>Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, <sup>36</sup>or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. <sup>37</sup>And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ!

**SERMON** 

Rev. Dr. Sidney Nelson

P: Please stand as you are able for the Sermon Song.



Text: James Lewis Milligan, 1876-1961, alt. Music: ASCENSION, Henry Hugh Bancroft, 1904-1988 Music © Estate of Eldred Bancroft. B. Burrows, Executor.

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#### **APOSTLES' CREED**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.

On the third day he rose again;

he ascended into heaven,

he is seated at the right hand of the Father,

and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,

the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body,

and the life everlasting. Amen.

#### THE PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

A: Guided by the light of Christ, let us pray for the coming dawn of joy, healing, and comfort for all God's people.

After each petition of the prayer is said:

A: Lord, in your mercy.

C: Hear our prayer.

P: We raise our prayers to you, O God, in the name of the one who is, who was, and who is to come, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

#### **SHARING OF THE PEACE**

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us share with one another the peace of the Lord.

#### ~WELCOME TO THE LORD'S TABLE~

#### **OFFERING**

#### **MUSICAL OFFERING:**

#### **He Came Down**

**ELW #253** 

(verses 1 & 2 only)



- 1 He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;
- 2 He came down that we may have light; he came down that we may have light;
- 3 He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace;
- 4 He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;



he came down that we may have love;

he came down that we may have light;

he came down that we may have peace; har-le-lu-ja

he came down that we may have joy;

hal-le-lu-jah for-ev-er-more.

Text: Cameroon traditional

Music: HE CAME DOWN, Cameroon traditional

#### OFFERING PRAYER

A: Let us pray.

A: God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.** 

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING Dialogue

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

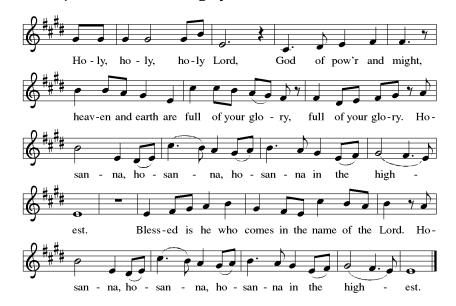
We lift them to the Lord.

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.

You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you for your promise to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.

Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed,

our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;

broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,

and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,

shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth. Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever. **Amen** 

#### The Lord's Prayer

P: And now, we come to You in prayer, as our Savior Jesus has taught us:

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.

#### **Invitation of Communion**

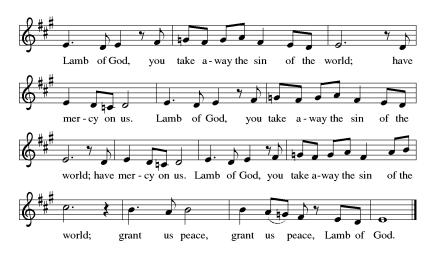
P: Taste and see that the Lord is good.

#### **Reception of Communion**

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you. **Amen.** 

Communion distribution today is at the Altar rail and received by intinction. Please come forward by the center aisle at the direction of an usher, and kneel or stand (as you are able) at the Altar rail. Receive the bread in your hands and dip it in the wine. The wine is alcohol free. There is no group dismissal. Please return to your seats by the center aisle. There will be another communion station below for those that prefer not to come to the Altar rail. Please indicate if you need gluten-free elements.

#### "LAMB OF GOD"



#### **Communion Song:**

#### The King Shall Come

**ELW #260** 



- 1 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light tri um-phant breaks,
- 2 Not as of old a lit-tle child, to bear and fight and die,
- 3 Oh, bright er than the ris ing morn when Christ, vic to rious, rose
- 4 Oh, bright er than that glo rious morn shall dawn up on our race
- 5 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light and beau ty brings.



when beau - ty gilds the east - ern hills and life to joy a - wakes. but crowned with glo - ry like the sun that lights the morn-ing sky. and left the lone-some place of death, de - spite the rage of foes. the day when Christ in splen-dor comes, and we shall see his face. Hail, Christ the Lord! Your peo - ple pray: come quick-ly, King of kings.

Text: John Brownlie, 1859-1925

Music: CONSOLATION, A. Davisson, Kentucky Harmony, 1816

#### **Instrumental Music**

Cesar Vidaud

#### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: Let us pray.

A: God for whom we wait, in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

#### ~WE ARE SENT FORTH~

#### **Benediction**

P: The love of God surround you; the grace of + Christ release you; and the Holy Spirit be your guide and strength, now and forevermore.

C: Amen.

#### Announcements



Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660–1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823–1907 Music: HAF TRONES LAMPA FÄRDIG, Swedish folk tune

#### **DISMISSAL**

A: Go in peace. Share the joy of God's love.

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: Rudy Koch, Laurel Blake, Jim Loggins, Barb Taylor, Diane Adler, Jean Rogers, Katie, Roy and Barbara Kaptain, Lisa Allen, Bob & Jane Reinhold, C.C., Trudy DiCarlo and Marie Koach.

Prayers for Friends of the Church: Jerry, Cheryl, Robert, Craig, Henry Q., Damien S., Monique Rogers and her mom Betty, Marie Trykoski, Myrka Alverist's family, Maggie Alverist, Ann Farrell, Normagene Richardson, Aiden Chase, Rita Stevenson, Mike, Barbara Greco, Dr. Willis Allen, Eleanor Knauf, Alessandra, Cheryl, Nick Caldwell Sr., Lucille Capece, Lexie Sachlis, George F., David Spall, Joan Coletti, Adam Rubino, Berna, Braemen Weiner, Chandler Weiner, Debbie Seckel, Elizabeth Kraus, Kenneth Smith, Mary Taylor, Cynthia, Richard H., Laurie Engelhardt and for Helene Harker.

## **Announcements**

CHRISTMAS EVE SCHEDULE: Sunday, December 24 at 10am., 5:30pm & 7:00pm (both with candlelight.)

**POINSETTIAS:** Starting December 3, 2017 St Stephen will begin selling poinsettias as a fundraiser. Poinsettias can be dedicated to loved ones. They will decorate our altar until after the Christmas Service when you can take home what you purchased. Donation: \$10.00.

**ESTIMATE OF GIVING:** A gentle reminder to fill the Estimate of Giving out. There will be copies printed in the Narthex. Please fill it out and send it back either by email at <a href="mailto:sslcpompano@gmail.com">sslcpompano@gmail.com</a> or drop it off at church office.

**THE LUTHER ROOM:** Most of us know it as the Choir Room, other know it as the Music Room, it is the room west of the Narthex. Through the years it has become also a storage room. Unfortunately, it has also been neglected, and since it is being used for more than choir practices, it doesn't feel inviting or part of the growing church that we are now. We would like to renovate this room. We hope to dedicate this "Martin Luther Room" as part of our commemoration of the 500 years of the Reformation on October 29, 2017. Would you like to be part of this effort? Please make your donation in an envelope specifying, "Luther Room by \_\_\_\_\_ in honor of \_\_\_\_\_." You may also contact the church office.



People give out of abundance. When we perceive scarcity, we live in fear, trying to hang on to things.

When we live in God's generosity, we can let go of fear. We no longer require a stranglehold on our possessions. We can share generously. Transformation happens, both for us and for our neighbors. When we choose to see God's abundance instead of our human scarcity, we give.

Jesus disciples had every reason to live in fear shortly before the crucifixion. They had every reason to hoard their abundance. However, God's energy is more present in those who multiply gifts than it is absent in those who choose to live by fear.

Stewardship Commission.

### Service Assistants for December

10:15 AM	<u>December 3</u>	<u>December 10</u>	December 17	December 24	<u>December 31</u>
ASSISTING MINISTER	Pat Belanger	Sera Butz	Natalie Prego	Carol Jacobson	Aura Suarez
ACOLYTE	Katie Paff	Aiyana Cartwright	Katie Paff	Aiyana Cartwright	Katie Paff
LECTOR	Erika Flanigan	Kevin Otterson	Catherine Zippay	Rick Dunton	Tom Peterson
USHERS –Need 4 to Serve Head Usher	Suzanne Loggins Linda Hanzlik Terry Shumway Lisa Castaneda Rosie Fennelli	Floyd MacDonald Jimmy Fennelli Lynda Smith Zachary Smith Rosie Fennelli	Harry Ambrose Patricia Engle Terry Shumway Catherine Zippay Rosie Fennelli	Lisa Castaneda Linda Hanzlik Lynda Smith Zachary Smith Rosie Fennelli	Floyd MacDonald Jeanne Pettit Harry Ambrose Patricia Engle Rosie Fennelli
GREETERS – Need 2 to Serve	Caroline Smith Zachary Smith	Kelly Jacobson Rose Jones	Caroline Smith Ruth Wagle	Kelly Jacobson Rose Jones	Caroline Smith Ruth Wagle
SOUND	Eric Castaneda	Larry Jones	Dennis Magarrell	Sera Butz	Eric Castaneda
PROJECTION	Dennis Magarrell		Eric Castaneda	Larry Jones	Dennis Magarrell

	<u>December 24</u> <u>Christmas Eve</u> <u>5p.m Service</u>	<u>December 24</u> <u>Christmas Eve</u> <u>7pm Service</u>	
ASSISTING MINISTER	Sera Butz	Aura Suarez	
ACOLYTE	Katie Paff	Aiyana Cartwright	
USHERS	Catherine Zippay	Terry Shumway	Pat Belanger
SOUND	Dennis Magarrell	Sera Butz	



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

#### **Sunday Schedule**

10:15 a.m. Worship Holy Communion is celebrated weekly

#### **Church Staff**

**Rev. Dr. Sidney Nelson** – Interim Pastor pastor@ststephenluthern.net 561-235-0929

Cesar Vidaud - Director of Music Clarence (Teddy) Rowe - Sexton Aidee Koach - Administrative Assistant sslcpompano@gmail.com

#### **Congregation Council**

 ${\bf Larry\ Jones-President} \\ council president@ststephenlutheran.net$ 

Christian Hecker – Vice-president Natalie Prego - Secretary Patricia Engle Dennis Magarrell Eric Castaneda - Treasurer Lynda Smith Harry Ambrose

Office hours: 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 Mon-Fri

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