

# St Stephen

Evangelical Lutheran Church



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

December 6, 2015

Second Sunday of Advent

10:15 am

Pastor Pedro Suarez

# WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

—WE GATHER—

## INTRODUCTION

Forerunners and messengers advance the advent of our God. While John the Baptizer's voice in the wilderness may be the principal focus of the day, Malachi's prophesy could as easily herald the coming Lord Jesus as forerunner of the Lord of hosts. Finally all the baptized are called to participate in the sharing of the gospel. In so doing we prepare the way for the coming of the Lord and assist all flesh in capturing a vision of the "salvation of God."

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*Please stand as you are able*

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

P: Before God and in the company of our sisters and brothers, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*



P: God and Father of all,

**C: We confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed. We have thought better of ourselves than others. We have told lies, said hurtful things, acted in ways we wish we could take back, and looked the other way when action was needed. In your mercy, O God, forgive us, cleanse us, and heal us, for the sake of Jesus, our Savior.**

P: If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; everything has become new! In Christ, + you are a new creation: your sins are taken away and you are made new. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you.

**C: Amen.**



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.

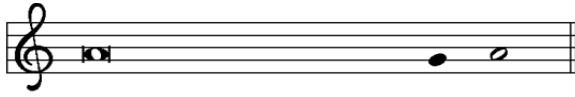
Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702-1751  
 Music: CHESTERFIELD, Thomas Haweis, 1734-1820

**THE GREETING**

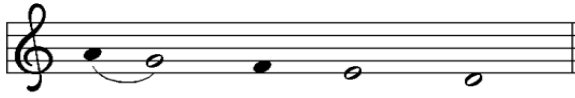
**P:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C:** And also with you.

# KYRIE (Sung)



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



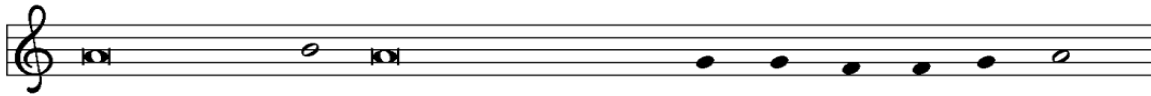
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

## HYMN OF PRAISE "This is the Feast..."



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.

*All*  
1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us  
free to be peo-ple of God. Pow-er and rich-es and wis-dom and  
strength, and hon-or and bless-ing and glo-ry are his.

*Refrain*  
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.

2 Sing with all the peo-ple of God and join in the  
hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing and hon-or and glo-ry and  
might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men.

*Final refrain*  
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain  
has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray together:

**C: Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. AMEN**

### Children's Message

—WE HEAR GOD'S WORD—

<sup>1</sup> See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. <sup>2</sup> But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; <sup>3</sup> he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. <sup>4</sup> Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

L: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks, be to God.**

### PSALM 1:68-79

<sup>68</sup> "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,  
for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them.

<sup>69</sup> **He has raised up a mighty savior for us  
in the house of his servant David,**

<sup>70</sup> as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,

<sup>71</sup> **that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us.**

<sup>72</sup> Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors,  
and has remembered his holy covenant,

<sup>73</sup> **the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham,  
to grant us**

<sup>74</sup> that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies,  
might serve him without fear,

<sup>75</sup> **in holiness and righteousness  
before him all our days.**

<sup>76</sup> And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,

<sup>77</sup> **to give knowledge of salvation to his people  
by the forgiveness of their sins.**

<sup>78</sup> By the tender mercy of our God,  
the dawn from on high will break upon us,

<sup>79</sup> **to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,  
to guide our feet into the way of peace."**

<sup>3</sup> I thank my God every time I remember you, <sup>4</sup> constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, <sup>5</sup> because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. <sup>6</sup> I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup> It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. <sup>8</sup> For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. <sup>9</sup> And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight <sup>10</sup> to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, <sup>11</sup> having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God. AMEN.

**L:** The word of the Lord.

**C:** Thanks be to God.

**P:** Please Rise for the Gospel Acclamation.

**THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION "Alleluia"**

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

**P:** The Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke, the 21st chapter.

**C:** Glory to you, O Lord!

**GOSPEL:**

**Luke 3:1-6**

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, <sup>2</sup> during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup> He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, <sup>4</sup> as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. <sup>5</sup> Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; <sup>6</sup> and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ!

You may be seated.

## SERMON

—WE RESPOND—

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

## SERMON SONG

### Prepare the Royal Highway

ELW #264



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!  
2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing; your own e - ter - nal king!  
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!  
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!  
Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!  
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.  
His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:  
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!  
All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:  
So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:



Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*  
Music: BEREDEN VÅG FÖR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17th cent.  
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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## **THE 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.****

## **THE PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL**

*After each petition of the prayer is said:*

**A:** Lord, in your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

**P:** Trusting your love and healing, O God, we commend to you all for whom we pray,  
knowing you will hear and answer, through Christ our Lord.  
**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

#### My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness (Only 1 & 2 verses)

ELW #251



1 My soul pro-claims your great-ness, Lord; I sing my Sav - ior's praise!  
2 To all who live in ho - ly fear your mer - cy ev - er flows.  
3 To Is - ra - el, your ser - vant blest, your help is ev - er sure;



You looked up - on my low - li - ness, and I am full of grace.  
With might - y arm you dash the proud, their schem - ing hearts ex - pose.  
the prom - ise to our par - ents made their chil - dren will se - cure.



Now ev - 'ry land and ev - 'ry age this bless - ing shall pro - claim—  
The ruth - less you have cast a - side, the low - ly throned in - stead;  
Sing glo - ry to the Ho - ly One, give hon - or to the Word,



great won - ders you have done for me, and ho - ly is your name.  
the hun - gry filled with all good things, the rich sent off un - fed.  
and praise the Pow'r of the Most High, one God, by all a - dored.

Text: *With One Voice*, 1995, based on the Magnificat  
Music: KINGSFOLD, English folk tune  
Text © 1995 Augsburg Fortress

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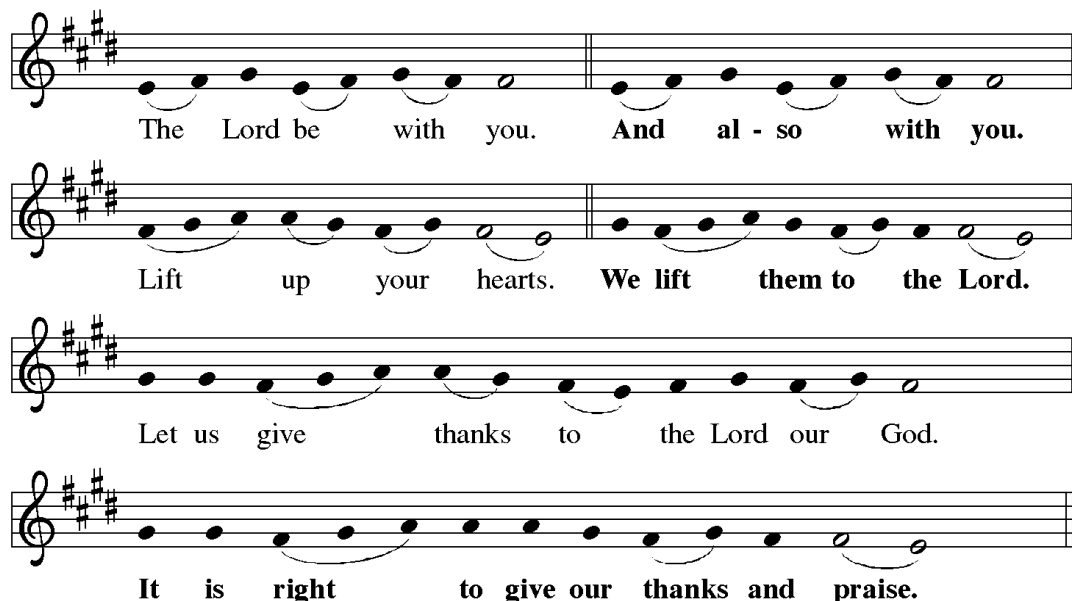
### OFFERING PRAYER

A: Let us pray,

God of mercy and grace, the eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing. Fill us with good things at your table that we may come to the help of all in need, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and Lord. **Amen.**

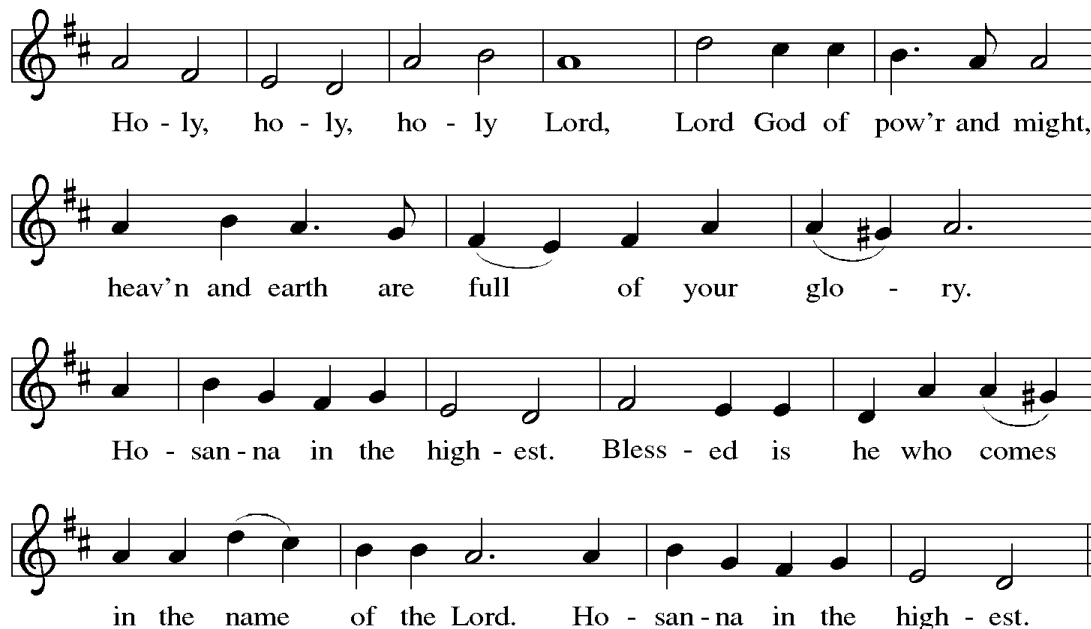
# THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

## Dialogue (Sung)



The Lord be with you. And al - so 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, for the glorious resurrection of our savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, 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.

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory. Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, 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**

Jesus said, "I am the true vine. Abide in me as I abide in you."

P: Taste and see that the Lord is good.

*We believe Jesus Christ is present in the bread and wine by his Word of Promise. All baptized Christians are invited to participate in the celebration of God's forgiving love, strengthening faith, and grace-filled hope. Those who are not baptized and children not yet communing may come forward for a blessing (please cross your arms on your chest if you desire a blessing).*

### **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. Note that the communion wine is alcohol-free. Please indicate if you need gluten-free elements.*



To - da la tie - rra es - pe - ra al Sal - va - dor

- 1 All earth is hope - ful, the Sav - ior comes at last!  
 2 Peo - ple of Is - rael, you heard the proph - et tell:  
 3 Moun - tains and val - leys will have to be pre - pared;  
 4 We first saw Je - sus a ba - by in a crib.



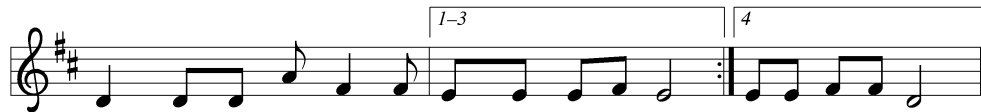
y el sur - co a - bier - to, la ob - ra del Se - ñor; es el

- Fur - rows lie o - pen for God's cre - a - tive task: this, the  
 "A vir - gin moth - er will bear Em - man - u - el"; she con -  
 new high - ways o - pened, new pro - to - cols de - clared. Al - most  
 This same Lord Je - sus to - day has come to live in our



mun - do que lu - cha por la li - ber - tad, re -

- la - bor of peo - ple who strug - gle to see how  
 ceived him, "God with us," our broth - er, whose birth re -  
 here! God is near - ing, in beau - ty and grace! All  
 world; he is pres - ent, in neigh - bors we see our



cla - ma jus - ti - cia y bus - ca la ver - dad. dar - nos li - ber - tad.

- God's truth and jus - tice set ev - 'ry - bod - y free.  
 stores hope and cour - age to chil - dren of this earth.  
 clear ev - 'ry gate - way, in haste, come out in haste!  
 Je - sus is with us, and ev - er sets us free.

- 2 *Dice el profeta al pueblo de Israel:* 3 *Montes y valles habrá que preparar;*  
*"De madre virgen ya viene Emmanuel,"* *nuevos caminos tenemos que trazar.*  
*será "Dios con nosotros," hermano será,* *Él está ya muy cerca, venidlo a encontrar,*  
*con él la esperanza al mundo volverá.* *y todas las puertas abrid de par en par.*

- 4 *En una cueva Jesús apareció,*  
*pero en el mundo está presente hoy.*  
*Vive en nuestros hermanos, con ellos está;*  
*y vuelve de nuevo a darnos libertad.*

Text: Alberto Taulé, b. 1932; tr. Madeleine Forell Marshall, b. 1946

Music: TODA LA TIERRA, Alberto Taulé

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**Instrumental Music**

**Cesar Vidaud**

P: Please stand as you are able.

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: Let us pray,

Wise and generous God, we thank you that at this holy table you have fed us again with the food of everlasting life. Send us with your blessing to seek the good of our neighbor and call others to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## ~WE ARE SENT FORTH~

### Benediction

P: Almighty and merciful God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless, preserve, and keep you this day and forevermore. **Amen.**

### SENDING SONG:

### People, Look East

ELW #248



1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing  
2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is  
3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the  
4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new



of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,  
plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,  
bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,  
life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming



trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look  
that in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look  
bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look  
with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look



east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.  
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.  
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.  
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881–1965  
Music: BESANÇON, French carol  
Text © Miss E. Farjeon Will Trust, by permission of David Higham Associates.

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## DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Share the good news.

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: Cynthia Langbauer. We also need to pray for: Barbara Nilles, Carmen Crespo, Henry Rosua, Frank Odiema, Mary S. Bailey, Roy Kaptain, Jimmy Fennelli, Bob & Jane Reinhold, Larry and Beverly Sheehan, Dee Lauterberg, Chico E., Paul Hanzlik, Rosie Fennelli, C.C.

**Prayers for Friends of the Church:** Joan Coletti, Giacomo Dresseno, Jeannie Rogers, Adam Rubino, Berna, Braemen Weiner, Chandler Weiner, Debbie Fiore, Debbie Seckel, Elaine Brustad, Elizabeth Kraus, Hazel Quire, Juan Tavarez, Kenneth Smith, Mary Taylor, Norma Duckworth, Cynthia, Tim Tyler, Richard H., Antonio C., Mireya D., Emma Holmes and her family, and Jack Vatrál.

*We are always updating our prayer list. If you would like your name added or removed, please notify Pat Belanger or the office.*

**Flowers sponsored this week by:** Barbara Glanz, In Loving Memory of her aunt Olga Wyckoff Johnston. Ailie, Kevin and John, In Memory of their father Rol Otterson.

# Announcements

**ANNUAL FASHION SHOW FUNDRAISER:** Tickets for this event will go on sale November 15, 2015 in the narthex. This will include lunch and gratuity. Those people who need flyers to post in your condos, store fronts or tickets to sell can speak with Rose Jones or Rosie Fennelli. Donation: \$30.00

**POINSETTIAS:** Starting November 29<sup>th</sup> until December 20<sup>th</sup>, 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.

**COMMITMENT SUNDAY:** December 6 is our commitment Sunday. Any consideration of giving our resources must begin and end with God. Because God is the creator and provider of all that we have, our generosity is for His glory. Give is a reflection of their commitment to the Lord and the work of the Gospel.

**FOOD FOR THE POOR** wishes to thank you for the welcome you extended to Reverend Ostlund on our recent visit to your parish. On behalf of our brothers and sisters throughout the Caribbean and Latin America, we thank you for your compassion and care. We are all blessed by and grateful for your generosity. In Christ, The Food for the Poor Family.

## *Service Assistants for today*

<b>Time Change 10:15 AM</b>	<b><u>December 6</u></b>
<b>ASSISTING MINISTER</b>	<b>Carol Jacobson</b>
<b>ACOLYTE</b>	<b>Sera Butz</b>
<b>LECTOR</b>	<b>Lynn Antill</b>
<b>USHERS – Need 4 to Serve</b>	<b>Web Antill Scott Kelley Lisa Castaneda</b>
<b>Head Usher – Rosie Fennelli</b>	<b>Head Usher – Rosie Fennelli</b>
<b>GREETERS – Need 2 to serve</b>	<b>Suzanne Loggins Judi Dooge</b>
<b>SOUND</b>	<b>TBA</b>
<b>PROJECTION</b>	<b>Larry Jones</b>



# St. Stephen

## Evangelical Lutheran Church

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

### Sunday Worship Schedule

Praise and Faith formation 9:00 a.m.  
Traditional Blend Worship Service at 10:15 a.m.  
Latino Worship Service at 12:30 p.m.  
Holy Communion is celebrated weekly

### Church Staff

**Rev. Pedro Suarez** – Pastor  
pastor@ststephenlutheran.net  
**Cesar Vidaud** – Director of Music  
**Aidee Koach** – Administrative Assistant  
sslcpompano@gmail.com

### Congregation Council

**Rob Lewis**, President:  
councilpresident@ststephenlutheran.net

Web Antill  
Christian Hecker  
Natalie Prego - Secretary

Sera Butz  
Larry Jones  
Kathy Runk - Vice Pres.

Eric Castaneda  
Barbara Nilles

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

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