

# St Stephen

a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



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

**December 24, 2018    Nativity of Our Lord: Christmas Eve    7:30pm**

The Rev. Robert G. Schaefer, Pastor

# CHORAL CHRIST MASS

## Gathering

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

### INTRODUCTION

*On a long winter evening we gather to proclaim the coming of the light. Isaiah announces that the people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. Paul reminds us that the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all. In the familiar account of Christ's birth, the evening sky is bright with the heavenly host singing, "Glory to God in the highest." Amid our broken world we proclaim that the Prince of peace is born among us. God comes to us in human flesh—in Christ's body and blood—so that we may be bearers of divine light to all the world.*

### CHOIR PRELUDE

### CHRISTMAS PROCLAMATION

*This contemporary version of an ancient proclamation that traditionally started midnight Mass places the birth of Christ into human history yet avoids a literalistic accounting of time. The last phrase makes it clear that the nativity of Jesus is not only then but now, today, in our own time.*

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

### GATHERING SONG:

### Oh, Come All Ye Faithful

ELW #283



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!

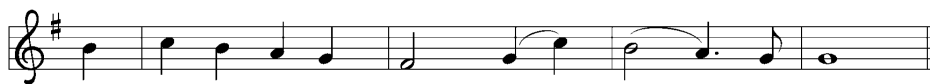


come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:  
Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!  
Glo - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:  
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

*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

## GREETING

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

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

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

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

P: For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

**C: In him was life, and the life was the light of all people.**

P: May the grace and truth of Christ, born of Mary be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

## CANTICLE OF PRAISE

### Angels We Have Heard on High

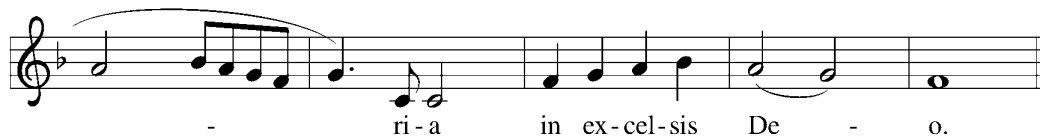
ELW#289



1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,  
2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?  
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



and the moun-tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.  
What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?  
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.



Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864  
Music: GLORIA, French carol

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

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

P: Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

*The assembly sits.*

## Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.



### **FIRST READING: Isaiah 9:2-7**

A reading from Isaiah.

<sup>2</sup>The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—  
on them light has shined.  
<sup>3</sup>You have multiplied the nation,  
you have increased its joy;  
they rejoice before you  
as with joy at the harvest,  
as people exult when dividing plunder.  
<sup>4</sup>For the yoke of their burden,  
and the bar across their shoulders,  
the rod of their oppressor,  
you have broken as on the day of Midian.  
<sup>5</sup>For all the boots of the tramping warriors  
and all the garments rolled in blood  
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.  
<sup>6</sup>For a child has been born for us,  
a son given to us;  
authority rests upon his shoulders;  
and he is named  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
<sup>7</sup>His authority shall grow continually,  
and there shall be endless peace  
for the throne of David and his kingdom.  
He will establish and uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness  
from this time onward and forevermore.  
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

L: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**



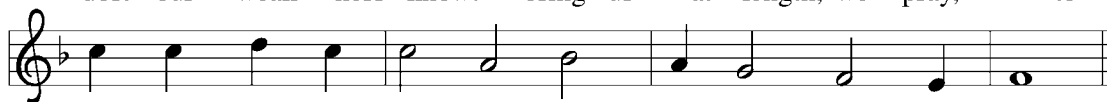
1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing from ten - der stem hath  
 2 I - sai - ah had fore - told it, the rose I have in  
 3 This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet-ness fills the  
 4 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, who felt our hu - man



sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing as  
 mind; with Mar - y we be - hold it, the  
 air, dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor the  
 woe; O Sav - ior, king of glo - ry, who



seers of old have sung, it came, a flow'r so bright, a -  
 vir - gin moth - er kind. To show God's love a - right, she  
 dark-ness ev - 'ry - where. True man, yet ver - y God, from  
 dost our weak - ness know: bring us at length, we pray, to



mid the cold of win - ter, when half - spent was the night.  
 bore to us a Sav - ior, when half - spent was the night.  
 sin and death he saves us and light - ens ev - 'ry load.  
 the bright courts of heav - en and in - to end - less day.

Text: German carol, 15th cent.; tr. Theodore Baker, 1851–1934, sts. 1–2; Harriet R. Krauth, 1845–1925, st. 3; John C. Mattes, 1876–1948, st. 4  
 Music: ES IST EIN ROS, *Alte catholische geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1599



## SECOND READING: Titus 2:11-14

A reading from Titus.

<sup>11</sup>The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, <sup>12</sup>training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, <sup>13</sup>while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. <sup>14</sup>He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

L: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*After a brief silence, the assembly stands to welcome the gospel.*

# GOSPEL ACCLAMATION AND PROCESSION

## Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

ELW#270

*Verses 1 & 2 are sung as the procession moves into place*



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!



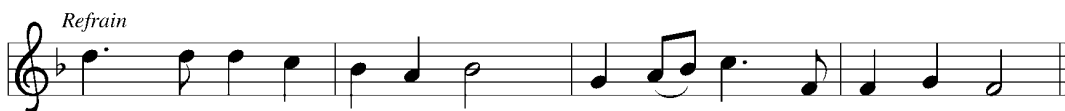
peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled."  
late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.  
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.



Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;  
Veiled in flesh the God - head see! Hail, in - car - nate de - i - ty!  
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,



with an - gel - ic hosts pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"  
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!  
born to raise each child of earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.



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

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.

Music: MENDELSSOHN, Felix Mendelssohn, 1809–1847; arr. William H. Cummings, 1831–1915

## GOSPEL: Luke 2:1-20

P: The Holy Gospel, according to Luke.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>1</sup>In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup>Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup>And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

<sup>8</sup>In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

<sup>10</sup>But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup>“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” <sup>15</sup>When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” <sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.  
 C: Praise to you, O Christ.

*Verse 3 of Hark! the Herald Angels Sing (page 6) is sung as the procession returns.*

*The assembly is seated.*

**SERMON**

**The Rev. Robert Schaefer**

*Silence for reflection follows the sermon. The assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in Song.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY:**

**Oh Little Town of Bethlehem**

**ELW # 279**



O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!  
 For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove  
 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!  
 O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;  
 while mor-tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won-d'ring love.  
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.  
 cast out our sin, and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.



yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.  
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,  
 No ear may hear his com - ing; but, in this world of sin,  
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.  
 and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!  
 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.  
 oh, come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835–1893  
 Music: ST. LOUIS, Lewis H. Redner, 1831–1908

## **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.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

**A:** As heaven and earth rejoice, let us pray for the needs of the church and all the world.

*A brief silence.*

*After each petition of the prayer is said:*

**A:** Hear us, O God. **C:** **Your mercy is great.**

**P:** Standing in the light of Christ's birth, into your hands, merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Christ, our Lord.

**C:** **Amen.**

## **PEACE**

**P:** The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C:** **And also with you.**

*The people may greet each other with a sign of Christ's peace and may say: Peace be with you.*



The assembly is seated.

## MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

### OFFERING

The assembly stands as the gifts of bread, wine and money are presented at the altar.

**MUSICAL OFFERING:**

**What Child is This?**

**ELW #296**



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar - y's lap is sleep - ing?  
2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?  
3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas - ant, king, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?  
Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.  
The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.



This, this is Christ the king, whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;  
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;  
Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!  
hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!  
joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–1898  
Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent.



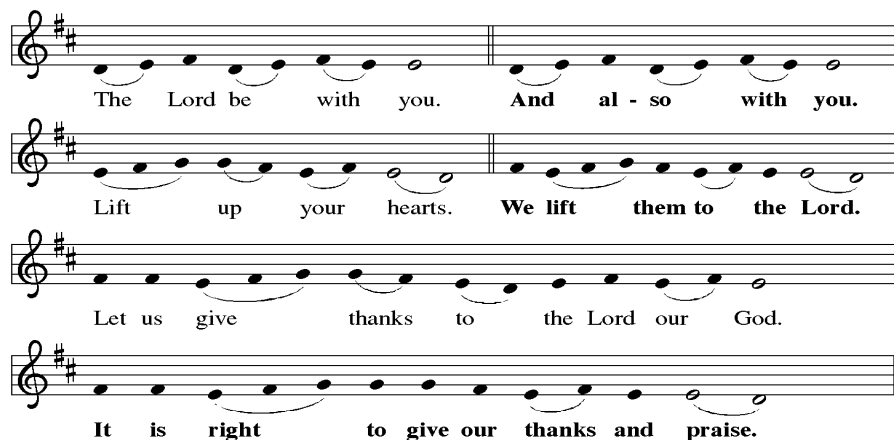
### OFFERING PRAYER

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.

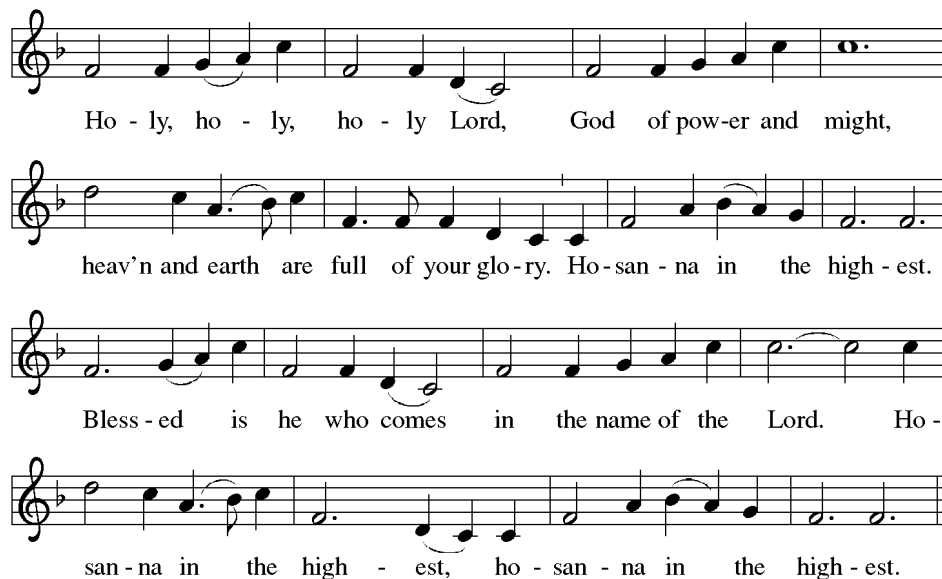
**C: Amen.**

# THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



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



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er 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, 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

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 bread is broken for the communion. The assembly is seated.*

*All baptized Christians are invited to participate in the celebration of holy communion. 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.*

*At St. Stephen we receive Holy Communion by receiving the bread and then either drinking directly from the cup or by intinction: That means that you may **receive the bread in your hand and then dip bread in the wine.**)*

**Gluten free bread is available on the right side. (please ask)**

**Alcohol free wine is available on the right side. (please ask)**

The body of Christ, given for you. *Response: Amen.*

The blood of Christ, shed for you. *Response: Amen.*

### Communion Songs:

### Away in the manger

ELW #278



1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for his bed,  
2 The cat - tle are low - ing; the ba - by a - wakes,  
3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay



the lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head;  
but lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes.  
close by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray.



the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
I love you, Lord Je - sus; look down from the sky  
Bless all the dear chil - dren in your ten - der care



the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.  
and stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.  
and fit us for heav - en, to live with you there.

Text: North American, 19th cent.

Music: CRADLE SONG, William J. Kirkpatrick, 1838–1921

## Candle Lighting

When all have communed, please remain seated while the candles are lit. The ushers will light their candles, and in turn, will share the light with the congregation. When an usher comes to your pew, the person on the end lights their candle from the usher's candle, and each person in the pew lights their candle in turn. Please **tip the unlit** candle into the lit candle. This will keep wax from dripping. (The wax is hot and will burn your skin, and it is hard to get out of fabric when cooled.) When the hand candles are lit, the assembly stands to sing.

## Hymn of Light: "Silent Night, Holy Night!"



*Stil - le Nacht, hei - li - ge Nacht! Al - les schläft.*  
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,



*ein - sam wacht nur das trau - te, hoch - hei - li - ge Paar.*  
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 your ho - ly face,



*Hold - er Kna - be im lok - ki - gen Haar, schlaf in himm - li - scher*  
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 your



*Ruh, schlaf in himm - li - scher Ruh.*  
peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.  
born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!  
birth, Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.

## 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.*

## SOLEMN BLESSING

P: Jesus is the Word made flesh in our midst. May his incarnation fill your hearts with joy and peace.

**C: Amen.**

P: Jesus is the promised Savior, born of Mary. May his birth among us renew your hope.

**C: Amen.**

P: Jesus is King of kings and the Lord of lords. May the gift of his presence bring forth rejoicing.

**C: Amen.**

P: Almighty God, the Father, † the Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

*The hand candles are extinguished.*

## SENDING SONG:

## Joy to the World

ELW# 267



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -  
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their  
3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -  
4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the



ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him  
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and  
fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings  
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -



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  
flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his



sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.  
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
found, far as, far as the curse is found.  
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748  
Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

## DISMISSAL

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

**C: Thanks be to God.**



**WELCOME!** Christmas is the one of the three great celebrations of the Christian year. Whether tradition, duty, curiosity, or faith brought you here, you are most welcome. We are thankful you are here!

On behalf of the whole Saint Stephen family, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2019!

**RESPONSE CARDS**, are in our bulletin today for members and our guests. Please fill one out and place in offering plate. Thank You.



In response to the amazing love, mercy and grace of God, St. Stephen Lutheran Church is a community that openly welcomes all who are seeking God's divine love and grace. All are welcome in this place regardless of race or culture, sexual orientation or gender identity, economic situation or life situation, marital or relationship status, or your doubts about faith and church. Our unity is in Christ. Your family, children, friends, spouses and partners are welcome. Your diversity and uniqueness enriches and expands our community. We are a Reconciling in Christ congregation.

## **IN OUR PRAYERS**

**In our prayers** today are these members of our homebound and others of our parish family in need of healing: Marsha Kibler, Juliet Crawford, Jimmy Fennelli, Laurel Blake, Kathy Runk, Edith Reichenback, Audrey Shumway, Jim Loggins, Diane Adler, Katie Paff, Roy and Barbara Kaptain, Bob & Jane Reinhold, Shelley Amato, and Antonio Alves.

### **Prayers for Friends of the Church: (Please renew your request every 3 weeks)**

✠ Erika Adrean, Judith, Carol, Gene, Chris, Amanda, Nattie, Scott, Sue, for a drug free family, health to the families, and world peace, Lord ✠ Celeste, Juliet, "Pop", Aurea, George, Donna ✠ Aiden, Rebecca, Chandler, Braemen, Cheryl, Robert, Craig, Nettie, Mary, and Jerry. Please remember in your prayers the Sprague family on the passing of Glenn (Rhonda Jones Sprague's father-in-law and very close and dear friend of Larry and Rose Jones).

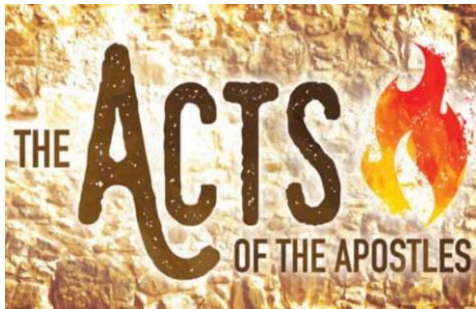
### **In a facility or homebound:**

Audrey Shumway - Willow Wick, Janesville, Wisconsin 53545  
Barbara Kaptain - The Atrium Assistant Living at Boca Raton.  
1080 NW 15TH Room 215 Boca Raton, Fl. 33486  
Jane Reinhold - Platinum Loving Group, P. O. Box 410572, Melbourne, FL 32941  
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

# PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

## ***Feast of St. Stephen, Deacon and Martyr, December 26, 2018***

The feast day of the saint whose name this congregation bears is the day after Christmas. Stephen was a deacon and the first martyr of the church. He was one of those seven upon whom the apostles laid hands after they had been chosen to serve widows and others in need. Later, Stephen's preaching angered the temple authorities, and they ordered him to be put to death by stoning.



## ***Bible Study Resumes in January: The Book of Acts***

Bible study resumes on Sunday, January 6 from 9:15—10am **in the Pastor's Office** (Room 1). We repeat this conversation in the **Luther Room** every **Tuesday from 7—8pm** starting January 8. Acts tells the story of the early church. It traces the growth of the church from a small group of Jewish believers in Jerusalem to a worldwide movement that included both Jews and Gentiles. This book still both gives the church its marching

orders and shows how the Holy Spirit will guide us in mission. Bring a bible and a friend and join us Tuesday evenings!

## ***Wear a Name Tag: A Ministry of Welcome.***

As we grow into our future together at St. Stephen, it is important that we all know each other's names as well as those of first time and returning guests. Please pick yours up if you haven't already. If you cannot find a name tag for yourself, there is a sheet on the table for you to print your name the way you want it to appear. Wear your name tag every Sunday and at church functions. They are free. If you would like to make a donation toward the expense, they cost us \$5 each. Any gift is welcome but optional!



## ***Change for Change Tower: Let's keep helping the homeless and hungry this Christmas!***

This month we continue the mission emphasis we started in November. Our Change for Change Tower collection will continue to go to the St. Laurence Homeless Shelter in Pompano Beach (1698 Blount Road—next to Broward Outreach Center). This ministry which is sponsored by our full-communion partners in The Episcopal Church provides an array of services for clients who are homeless and hungry. Their mission is to provide breakfast, lunch, showers, clothing, medical care, chapel services, overnight accommodations and more. Our donations

will buy new sleeping mats for clients. Please give generously to this local ministry!



**2019 Commitment Cards**

It is not too late to be part of our LIVE COURAGEOUSLY 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**

2019 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 Larry Jones or Carol Jacobson.

**Assisting at Our Worship today**

*Thank you all for serving.*

	<u>December 24</u> <u>Christmas Eve</u>	
	<u>5:30 PM</u>	<u>7:30 PM</u>
<b>ASSISTING MINISTER</b>	Sera Butz	Sera Butz
<b>ACOLYTE</b>	Carol Jacobson	Carol Jacobson
<b>TORCH BEARERS</b>	Eric Castaneda Pat Belanger	Eric Castaneda Pat Belanger
<b>BOOK BEARERS</b>	Katie Paff	Katie Paff
<b>LECTOR</b>	Tom Peterson	Tom Peterson
<b>USHERS –Need 4 to Serve</b>	Lynda Smith Zachary Smith	Pat Engle Rosie Fennelli
<b>Head Usher</b>		
<b>GREETERS – Need 2 to Serve</b>	Caroline Smith	
<b>SOUND</b>	Dennis Magarrell	Larry Jones
<b>PROJECTION</b>	Dennis Magarrell	Larry Jones

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