

***“People of Christ
Making a
Difference”***

1st Sunday in Advent

November 30, 2025

8:30 & 11:00AM

WELCOME TO ST. STEPHEN'S!

A nursery is provided for children through age 4 for both worship services and for infants and toddlers during Sunday School. The nursery is located at the end of the hall on the right side.

Children's bags can be found in the "Kid's Corner" of the narthex.

Restroom facilities are located down the hall on the left side.

First Aid, Emergency Equipment, and a wheelchair are located down the hall on the right by the stairwell.

If for any reason you must leave the sanctuary, the service is live streamed in the Agape Sunday School classroom. Any usher will be glad to direct you.

Sunday school classes are provided for 18 month olds through adults.

Listening devices and larger print bulletins are located in the narthex.
Ushers are also available to assist you.

If you are a visitor feel free to sign-in using the QR code. Here's how it works:
Point your camera at the image, tap the link that appears on your screen, and
share whatever information you desire. Thank you! Hope to see you again soon!



GREETING, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND PEACE

PRELUDE

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

Frank J. Hafferty

(We Stand)

BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, one God, who comes to wake us from sleep, who leads us into the light of grace.

Amen.

Let us prepare the way of the Lord by confessing our sin against God and neighbor.

God of all time,

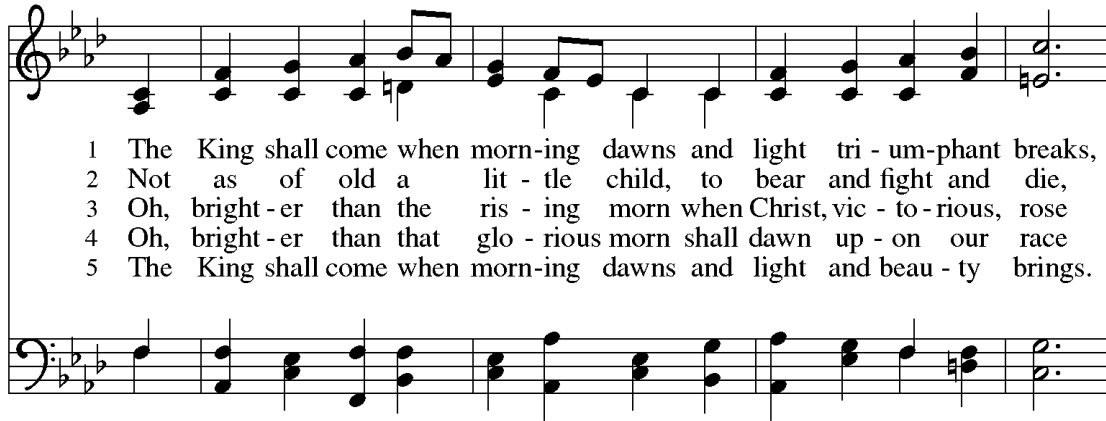
we confess that we have not prepared for your merciful reign among us. We ignore our neighbors in need and fail in the labor of spreading your love and peace. In your mercy forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your light and to seek the things that will endure until Christ comes again in glory. Amen.

Comfort, O comfort my people, says our God. In + Jesus Christ your sins are forgiven and all things are made new. Rejoice in this good news!

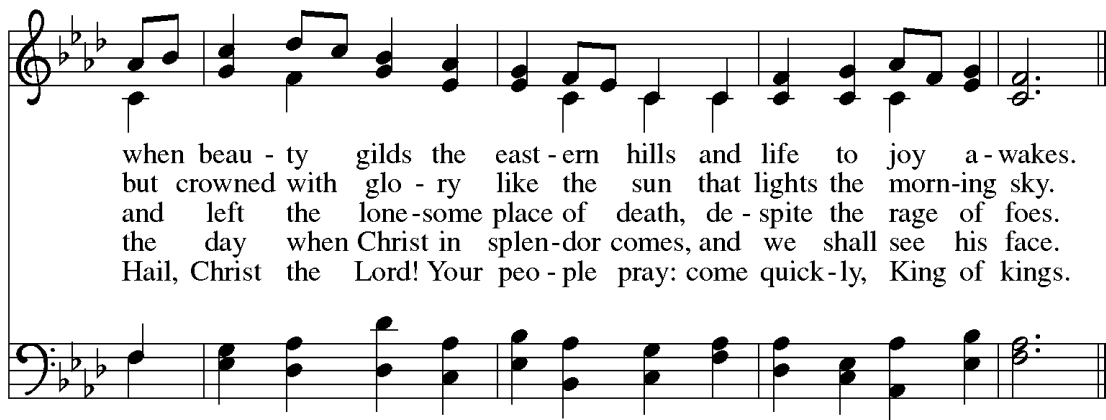
Amen.

GATHERING 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.

GREETING

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

And also with you.

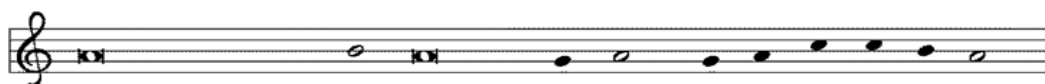
THE KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



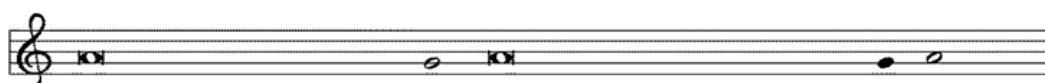
Lord, have mer - cy.



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



Lord, have mer - cy.



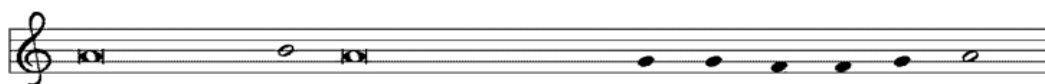
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



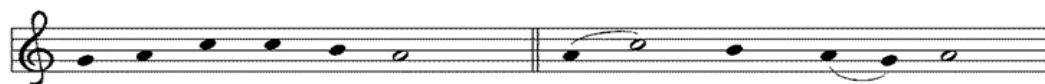
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



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.

THE SALUTATION

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

(We Sit)

FIRST READING

Isaiah 2:1-5

¹The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. ²In days to come the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. ³Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. ⁴He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. ⁵O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ADVENT WREATH CANDLELIGHTING REFLECTION

The Grace of God is coming.

Bringing salvation to all!

Isaiah describes nations streaming to the mountaintop where the Lord's rule will prevail, giving hope to a scattered people. This Advent we pray that we too hold to a vision of the world ruled by the Lord. O Lord, as your chosen people hoped for your Kingdom to come, we long for a world where there is no threat of war; where resources can be used for the physical and spiritual well-being of all; where there is no favoritism showed to the rich and powerful; where instruments of war and hate will no longer be used for hurting, stealing, and killing; where the "wrongs of the world will be made right." We long for a time when we will be in peace with our people and our neighbors, a time when you, Lord Jesus, will be our ruler and we will always walk in your light.

CANDLE LIGHTING LITURGY

Let us go to the mountain of the Lord.

Come, Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

Let Him teach us of His ways so we can walk in His paths.

Come, Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

Let us use our tools and resources to help and feed our neighbor.

Come, Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

Let us live in peace with each other and our neighbors.

Come, Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

(Light the First Advent Candle.)

CANDLELIGHTING HYMN “Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel”

ELW 257

Oh, come, oh, come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

CANDLELIGHTING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. You call all nations to walk in your light and to seek your ways, for the night is past, and the dawn of your coming is near. Bless us as we light the first candle of this wreath. Rouse us from sleep, that we may be ready to greet our Lord when he comes and welcome him into our hearts and homes, for he is our light and our salvation. Blessed be God forever.

Come, Lord Jesus. Amen.

SECOND READING

Romans 13:11-14

¹¹Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹²the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

(We Stand)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



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



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

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 24:36-44

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 24th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples,] ³⁶“About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴¹Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴²Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

(We Sit)

CHILDREN’S SERMON

Pastor Ralph

SERMON

Pastor Ralph

(We Stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

“O Lord, How Shall I Meet You”
(sung to the tune of “The Church’s One Foundation”)

ELW 241

O Lord, how shall I meet you, how welcome you aright?
Your people long to greet you, my hope, my heart’s delight!
Oh, kindle, Lord most holy, your lamp within my breast
to do in spirit lowly all that may please you best.

I lay in fetters, groaning; you came to set me free.
I stood, my shame bemoaning; you came to honor me.
A glorious crown you give me, a treasure safe on high
that will not fail or leave me as earthly riches fly.

Love caused your incarnation; love brought you down to me.
Your thirst for my salvation procured my liberty.
Oh, love beyond all telling, that led you to embrace
in love, all love excelling, our lost and fallen race.

Rejoice, then, you sad-hearted, who sit in deepest gloom,
who mourn your joys departed and tremble at your doom.
All hail the Lord’s appearing! O glorious Sun, now come,
send forth your beams so cheering and guide us safely home.

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.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

(We Sit)

OFFERING

God calls us to be generous stewards of those gifts for the sake of our ministry near and far. You can support our ministry by putting your offering in the offering plate, mailing it to the church, giving online (sslc.org or use the QR Code) or through the Givelify app. If you would like more details on direct deposit giving please contact our Parish Administrator, Mrs. Tonya Reynolds, at (803) 359-6562.



Anthem

(8:30)

"Advent Message"

Martin How

Come Lord Jesus, come Lord Jesus, Amen come Lord Jesus.
O come quickly, come Lord come. Amen, come Lord Jesus.
The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, prepare ye the way of the Lord.
Make straight in the desert, a highway for our God.
Come Lord Jesus, come Lord Jesus come.
Yea come quickly, come Lord come. Amen. Come Lord come.

(11:00)

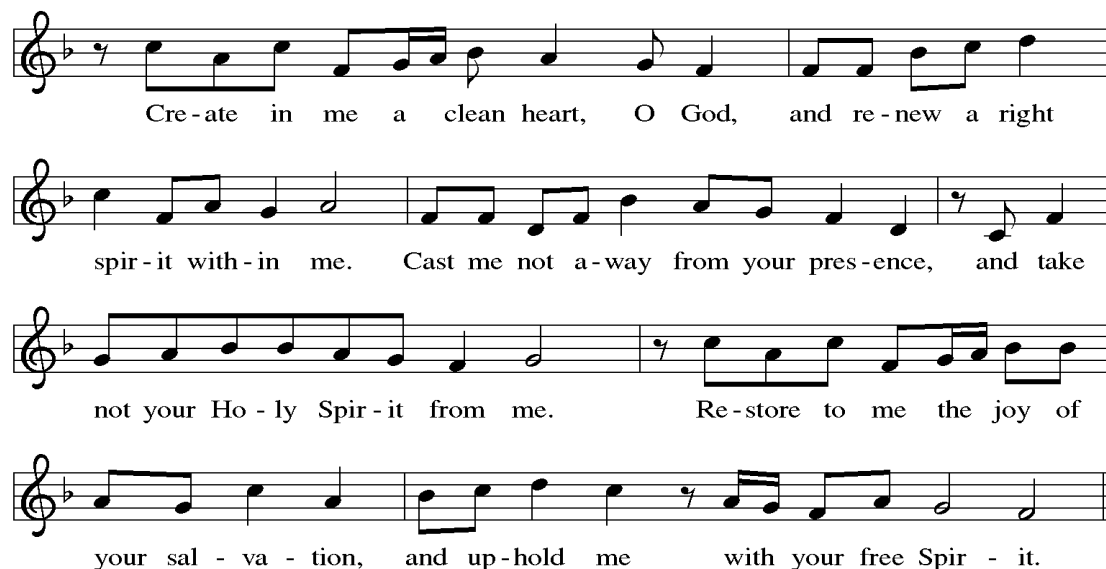
"Comfort Ye from Messiah"

George F. Handel

(We Stand)

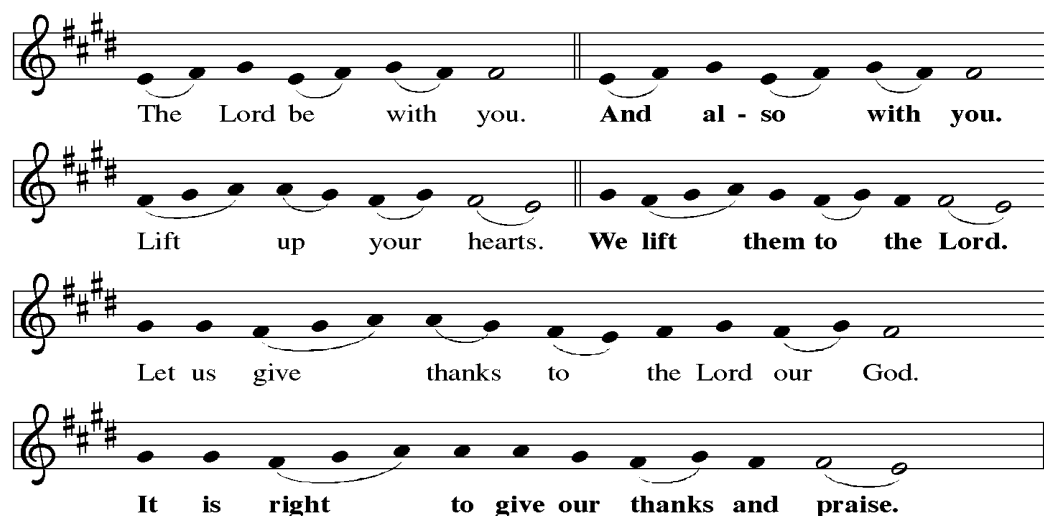
OFFERTORY

ELW 186



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of
your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

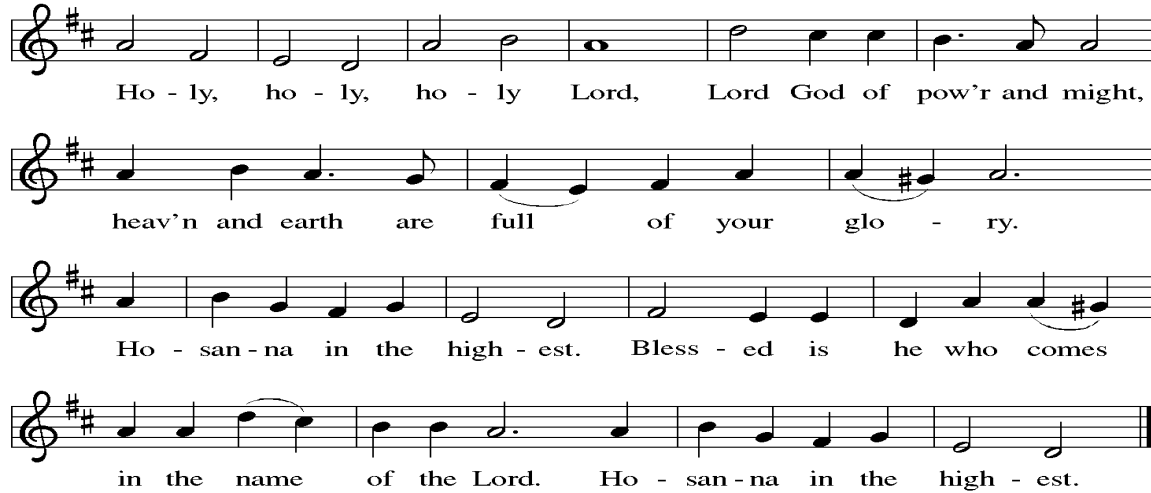
THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



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.

THE PREFACE

THE SANCTUS



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 EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

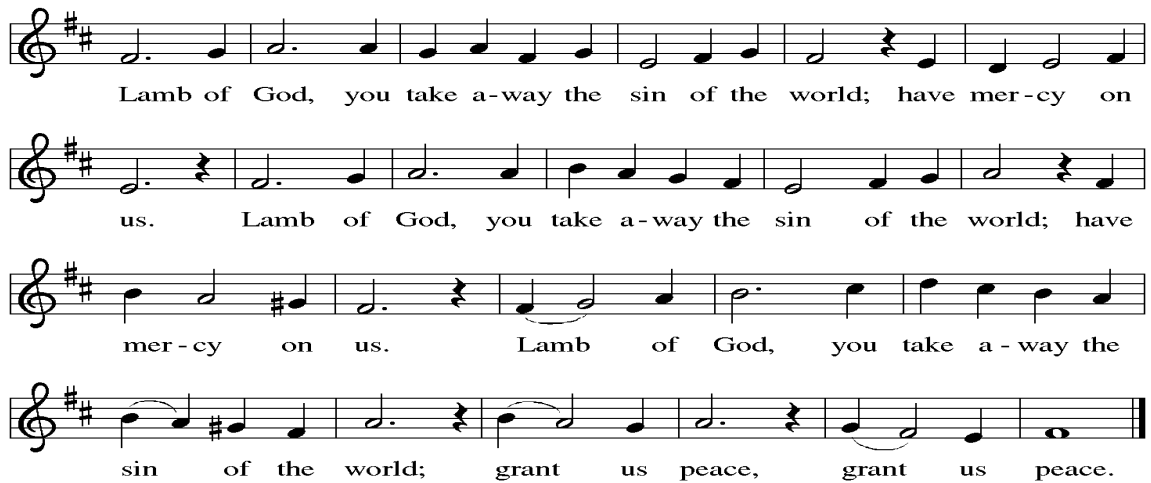
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

(We Sit)

THE AGNUS DEI



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

RECEPTION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Christ welcomes you to this Holy Meal of the Baptized! We receive communion this morning at the center aisle. Communion will be brought to the front rows for those who wish to remain seated. Children who commune should be assisted by adults near them. Those unable to partake of wine or wheaten bread are assured of our Lord's presence in, with, and under each element alone. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.

Communion Music

(8:30) *"Comfort Ye from Messiah"* George F. Handel

Comfort ye my people, saith your God. Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem,
And cry unto her, that her warfare, is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned.
The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, prepare ye the way of the Lord.
Make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

(11:00) *"An Advent Prayer"* Allen Pote

Come holy Jesus, come to free us from our sin. Come holy Jesus and make us pure within.
Inspire each heart with illumined surprise, enkindle a flame anew.
Increase our faith and strengthen our lives, show us the joy of living life in you.

*The Congregation is encouraged to participate in the following Communion Hymn.
The hymn can be found in the back portion of the WOV (Blue) Hymnal in your pew rack.*

Communion Hymn *"Blessed Be the God of Israel"* WOV 725

(We Stand)

BLESSING OF THE COMMUNICANTS

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

BENEDICTION

May Christ, the Sun of righteousness, shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path, and almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING SONG

"Rejoice, Rejoice Believers"

ELW 244

1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;
 2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride - groom near;
 3 The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - f'ring bore,
 4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;

the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.
 go forth as he ap - proach - es with al - le - lu - ias clear.
 shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.
 a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night - ed sphere.

The bride - groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing nigh.
 The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.
 A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb they shall be - hold;
 With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see

Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.
 A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the bride - groom is at hand.
 in tri - umph cast be - fore him their di - a - dems of gold.
 the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!

DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
 Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

"Lift Up Your Heads, You Mighty Gates"

David N. Johnson

SSLC 2025 Advent/Christmas Worship Schedule

Sundays in Advent

8:30 am and 11:00 am
Nov 30, Dec 7, Dec 14, and Dec 21

Our Children's Christmas Program will be Sunday evening, December 14th in the Gym at 5 pm

Our Adult Choir will present "Music of the Season" on Sunday, December 21st at both services

Holden Evening Prayer Advent Services

Tuesdays at 6 pm
Dec 2, Dec 9, Dec 16, and Dec 23

Advent Wednesday Eucharist

Lunch - 11:45 am; Worship - 12:30 pm
Wednesdays Dec 3, Dec 10, and Dec 17

Blue Christmas Service

Sunday, December 21 at 2:00 pm

The Nativity of our Lord / Christmas Eve - Dec 24

12 pm - Carols, Candlelight and Holy Communion
3 pm - Family and Children's Service
5:30 pm - Preservice Music with Strings, Handbells, and Adult Choir
6 pm - Candlelight Lessons and Carols with Holy Communion
10:30 pm - Preservice Music with Strings
11 pm - Carols, Candlelight and Holy Communion

Sunday, December 28

1st Sunday after Christmas - Lessons and Carols
8:30 am and 11:00 am

Christmas Wednesday Eucharist

Lunch - 11:45 am; Worship - 12:30 pm
Wednesday, Dec 31

Sunday, January 4

2nd Sunday after Christmas
8:30 am and 11:00 am

Sunday, November 30, 2025

First Sunday in Advent

Turn On. Tune In. Wake Up!

In the 1960's people were urged to turn on, tune in, and drop out—to leave the material world behind in favor of an alternate reality. In today's gospel, Jesus also urges us to tune into an alternative to the material world, one he called the coming of the Son of Man. In Jesus' person, the dominion of God comes into the world, and the risen Christ continues to give us abundant signs of its presence. Jesus commands his followers not to drop out of the world, but to be on the lookout for him in it.

Christians await the second coming of Christ, the parousia, when we believe we will experience God's reign in its fullness. In the meantime, we live, in the words of some theologians, "already, but not yet." We look for glimpses of the dominion in the here and now. The season of Advent, and today's readings, are designed to help turn us on to the excitement and anticipation of God's reign in our lives and tune in to the infinite opportunities we have to participate in it. In other words, they want to wake us up!

St. Paul exhorts us in today's second reading to lead lives of faithful obedience until the final day. He also challenges us to participate in God's dominion in the here and now, calling us to wake from sleep, to "put on Christ." Eyes wide open and wrapped in Christ, we are called to a new day. Isaiah describes his own vision: gathered by God, learning and teaching God's ways, walking in God's paths, beating swords into ploughshares and spears to pruning hooks. Wide-awake, active, and ready for encounters with Jesus, we may find God's dominion when and where we least expect it.

The Readings on This Day

Advent

Although the historical record is sketchy, it appears that our Advent arose out of a season of fasting to prepare for baptisms at Epiphany. By the sixth century, an eschatological emphasis was present. Our Advent comprises the four Sundays before Christmas. Each year, the first Sunday contains the theme of readiness for divine judgment, the second Sunday the ministry of John the Baptist, the third Sunday the Baptist's call to a repentant life, and only on the fourth Sunday a narrative concerning the birth of Jesus. God comes, in the past in the history of Israel and the incarnation of Jesus, in the present in the word and sacrament of each Sunday, and in the future at the end of all things. The lectionary appoints readings to fit this pattern, and its tone stands in stark contrast to our society's weeks of preparation for Christmas.

Matthew 24:36-44

Advent begins the liturgical year, and in this Year A, the gospel readings from Matthew complement the festival gospels taken from John. At this beginning we contemplate the end: the arrival of the divine judge means the end of the earth as we know it. In Advent, we are called to ready our lives to receive our disorienting God. The arrival of God, like a flood, always surprises us.

Isaiah 2:1-5

In Advent the church both anticipates and celebrates the presence of God in Jesus Christ, who is himself, like Jerusalem in the oracle, the locus of divine justice and peace for the world.

Romans 13:11-14

At the start of Advent the church hears Paul's wake-up call, to put on the Lord Jesus Christ. In the darkness of winter, we awake to the light of Christ. God is like the coming dawn.

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the glory of God and in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Earl Redman by the family.

SERVING TODAY:

Ushers: (8:30) Reuben Eargle, Sandy Shealy, Ron Redd, Steve Fowler, Jim Nantz, Rick Loging, and Daryl Hooker;

(11:00) Otis Rawl, G Kolb, Mike Burgess, Myra Strock, Manning Burgess, Roy Windham, and George Mathias

Soloists: Austin Means, Melissa Rawl

Cellist: Cole Catalanotto

Greeters: (8:30) Sandy Shealy; (11:00) Shannon Burnett

Readers: (8:30) Marty Nantz; (11:00) Jessica Maxheimer

Communion Assistants: (8:30) Tonya Reynolds; (11:00) Cathy Mathias

Order of St. Stephen's: (8:30) [A] Shaun Wessinger [C] Jaime Wessinger;
(11:00) [A] Ben Brunson [C] Hudson Taylor

The Church Staff

Website: www.sslc.org

The Rev. Jason T. Antley

The Rev. Ralph G. Hill

Mrs. Shannon Burnett, Director of Family Life

Mrs. Tonya Reynolds, Parish Administrator

Ms. Susan Wilson, Director of Music/Organist

Mrs. Julie Tworzyanski, Preschool Director

Mrs. Sylvia Looney, Organist Emeritus

Sunday School Information:

Locations for Children's Classes

Locations for Adult Classes

Nursery – Room #105	Agape Adult Class Room #102 (Closest to Narthex)
2—4 year olds & 5K – Room #103	Saints & Sinners with PJ and PR Room #203 (Large Upstairs Room)
1st—5th Grade – Room # 216	Women Digging Deeper Parlor
6th—8th Grade – Room #212	For those not attending a Sunday School class but waiting on a child to get out of one, feel free to sit in the Social Hall!
9th—12th Grade – Room #217	If you are interested in beginning a new Sunday School class please contact Mrs. Shannon.

If you are not receiving the weekly announcements and monthly newsletter via email and would like to receive them, please email Shannon (Shannon@sslc.org) so she can add you to the distribution list.

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