



# Keep awake

MARK 13:37



# **First Sunday of Advent**

## **December 3, 2023**

Welcome to people new to this church or faith, long time Lutherans, and Christians from every tradition. Welcome to all who have no church home, want to follow Christ, have doubts, or do not believe. Welcome to new visitors and old friends. Welcome to people of every age and size, color and culture, sexual orientation and marital status, ability and challenge. Welcome to believers and questioners and questioning believers. This is a place where you are welcome to celebrate and sorrow, rejoice and recover. This is a place where lives are made new. Welcome on this day.

Music            “Veni Emmanuel” Richard Purvis

## **The Gathering**

### Advent Wreath Lighting

We praise you, O God, for this evergreen crown  
That marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent.  
As we light the first candle on this wreath,  
Rouse us from sleep, that we may be ready to greet our Lord  
When he comes with all the saints and angels.  
Enlighten us with your grace,  
And prepare our hearts to welcome him with joy.  
Grant this through Christ our Lord,  
Whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

**Amen.**

### \*Opening Hymn

“Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”    Red #244

Rejoice, rejoice, believers, and let your lights appear;  
The evening is advancing, and darker night is near.  
The bridegroom is arising and soon is drawing nigh.  
Up, pray and watch and wrestle;  
at midnight comes the cry. 2

The watchers on the mountain  
proclaim the bridegroom near;  
Go forth as he approaches with alleluias clear.  
The marriage feast is waiting; the gates wide open stand.  
Arise, O heirs of glory; the bridegroom is at hand.

The saints, who here in patience  
their cross and suff'rings bore,  
Shall live and reign forever when sorrow is no more.  
Around the throne of glory the Lamb they shall behold;  
In triumph cast before him their diadems of gold.

Our hope and expectations, O Jesus, now appear;  
Arise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this benighted sphere.  
With hearts and hands uplifted, we plead, O Lord, to see  
The day of earth's redemption that sets your people free!

\*Greeting

P: The steadfast love of God, the life of Jesus Christ  
and the power of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

Kyrie      *"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"*      # 257 vs. 1 - 2

O come, O come, Emmanuel  
And ransom captive Israel  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear.

**REFRAIN**  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel,  
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

(Kyrie continued)

O come, O Wisdom from on high  
embracing all things far and nigh:  
in strength and beauty come and stay;  
Teach us your will and guide our way. REFRAIN

Hymn of Praise

*“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”*

#270 vs 1 & 3

Hark! The herald angels sing,  
“Glory to the newborn King;  
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled.”  
Joyful, all you nations, rise;  
Join the triumph of the skies;  
With angelic hosts proclaim,  
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”

REFRAIN

Hark! The herald angels sing,  
“Glory to the newborn king!”

Hail the heav’n born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the sun of righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
Ris’n with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by,  
born that we no more may die,  
Born to raise each child of earth,  
born to give us second birth

REFRAIN

\*Prayer of the Day

P: May God be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us Pray.

Celebrate, Page 1

# The Word of God

## First Reading

Isaiah 64:1-9

Celebrate pg. 1

L: Word of God, Word of Life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## Second Reading

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Celebrate pg. 3

L: Word of God, Word of Life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*(Please stand as you are able)*

## Gospel Acclamation

*"Angels We Have Heard on High"*

#289 vs. 1

Angels we have heard on high  
Sweetly singing o'er the plains  
And the mountains in reply  
Echoing their joyous strains

*G l o — r i a . . . i n e x c e l s i s D e o*

*G l o — r i a . . . i n e x c e l s i s D e o*

P: The Holy Gospel acc. to St. Mark, the 13th Chapter.

**C: Glory to you, O God.**

## \*Gospel Reading

Mark 13:24-37

Celebrate pg. 3

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

**D:**

## Sermon

Rev. James Lapp

\*Hymn of the Day

“Come Now, O Prince of Peace” #247

1. Come, now, O Prince of peace,  
make us one body.  
Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile your people.
2. Come now, O God of love,  
make us one body.  
Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile your people.
3. Come now and set us free,  
O God, our Savior.  
Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile all nations.
4. Come, Hope of unity, make us one body.  
Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile all nations.

The Prayers of the Church

Celebrate, Page 4

## The Communion Meal

\*Passing of the Peace

P: May the peace of God be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

Offering — We honor and worship God by returning some of  
the gifts with which we have been blessed.

Music “All the Earth is Hopeful”  
Good News Singers

Offertory

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”      Red #283 vs. 1

O come, all ye faithful  
Joyful and triumphant

O come ye, o come ye to Bethlehem  
Come and behold him  
Born the King of angels

*REFRAIN*

O come, let us adore him  
O come, let us adore him  
O come, let us adore him  
Christ the Lord

Offering Prayer

P: Savior of the nations, come.  
    Make your home here in us.  
    Feed us with your love,  
    So that our faith shines ever new  
    And our lives reveal your light.

**C: Amen**

\*Great Thanksgiving

P: May God be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them to the Lord**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy....

\*Words of Institution

\*Lord's Prayer

**C: Our Father, in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today, our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those  
who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial,  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom,  
the power and the glory are yours  
Now and forever. Amen**

**P: Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you.  
Share in the feast of salvation.**

*(You may be seated)*

Holy Communion

*Guests: You are welcome to come forward to receive  
Communion as part of this church family! The wine is red. The grape  
juice is white. Children are always welcome to come forward and  
receive a special blessing if they have never communed before.*

Lamb of God

*"Love Has Come" Red #292 vs. 1 & 3*

**Love has come a light in the darkness!  
Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.  
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it;  
Hear how their song of joy arises:  
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior!  
Love! Love! Glory to God on high!**

**Love has come and never will leave us!  
Love is life everlasting and free.  
Love is Jesus within and among us,  
Hear how their song of joy arises:**



Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas.  
Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

Communion Hymn

*“Wait for the Lord”* Red #262 (repeat often)

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.  
Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

## The Sending

\*Communion Blessing

P: May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ  
Strengthen you and keep you in God’s grace.

**C: Amen.**

\*Prayer after Communion

P: God for whom we wait,  
You come to us  
In the broken bread and the cup we share.  
Make us ready always  
To welcome Christ into our hearts,  
And send us forth to be your people in the world,  
Announcing your coming among us  
In Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

\*Blessing

P: May God direct your ways in peace,  
Make you abound in love for one another and for all,  
And strengthen your hearts  
as we wait for the coming of Christ  
Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit,  
Bless you now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

\*Closing Hymn

“Soon and Very Soon” Red #439

Soon and very soon we are going to see the King!  
Soon and very soon we are going to see the King!  
Soon and very soon we are going to see the King!  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! We're going to see the King!

No more crying there, we are going to see the King!  
No more crying there, we are going to see the King!  
No more crying there, we are going to see the King!  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! We're going to see the King!

No more dying there, we are going to see the King!  
No more dying there, we are going to see the King!  
No more dying there, we are going to see the King!  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! We're going to see the King!

Soon and very soon we are going to see the King!  
Soon and very soon we are going to see the King!  
Soon and very soon we are going to see the King!  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! We're going to see the King!

\*Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Christ is with you.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Music “You are Holy” Rick Seaton

Flowers — Barbara Rice  
Reader — Elke Spires  
Coffee Host — Kirstin & Alex Hughes



## Prayer Concerns

**SHORT TERM:** Anne Rice, Cheryl Davis, Middle East Peace, Jan, Jacque N. Diane Strong, Family of Jean Patterson, San Diego families of Nancy & Sam, Renee, Brandon, Tom Dawson, Rena Brown, James, Tina, Lurline Moore, Keith, Taiyo, Marissa, Isaac, George Webber, James Boudreau, Alvarado family, Frank, Dustin, Julie, Caitlin S., Family of Lupe Rodriguez, Eric Utto-Galarneau, Father Jack Davis, Corcoran family, Keith, Frank, Susan, Mike Homer, Charlie & Tracy, Andre, Irma, Sam, Jamie Sheehan, Ralph, Aria Brown, Karin Zaun, Atlas, Tony, Sandi Csik, Janica Paustian, Amy Wimmer, Gray, Hailey, Jesse, Joyce, James, John, Elida, Jeannie, Anetta, Jane, Barbara Allen, Kathy, Joel Hurttgam, Sandy, Levi & Alexandria, Gary Toops, Donna Kemper, Lisa & Beau, Craig Dahl, Genell Csik, Barbara Barteel, Barbara Stiles, Paul Cunningham, Anita & Howard, Sydnei Wilbywold, Paul Paustian, Dawit & Family (Ethiopia), Gaye Cornell, Dorothy, Rachel B., Anne & Chloe Johnston, Nancy, Mateo & Lina, Don, Atlas, Anthony, Steve, Margot Wilson, Rose, Will, Aaron Johnson, Sal, Katarina, Stephanie Jager, Parents, Healthcare workers & teachers. **LONG TERM:** Biergiel—Colclough family, April McCalmont, Marty Nehring, Miller Mouw, Kyle Lapp, Shelby Volpi, Ashley, Frank, Joe, Dom, Linda Johnson, Bailey Ingalls, Jan Shadle, Vi Olly, Bobbie Erickson, Joyce, Susan Anderson, Jan Wagner, Richard C., Brouse Family, Janet Baker, Sandy Godvine, Janelle Yung, Karin, Will, Chris, Pearl Runquist, Volpi & Robe Family, Cabel, Noah, Esdras, Immigrant families, The Homeless, People of Ukraine, Our Nation's leaders, Mt. Cross, St. Stephen's Child Development Ctr, Pastor Jim & Our Church Family, men & women of Armed Forces, and the Youth of today.

The Advent wreath is given to the Glory of God and in memory of Barbara's mother, Kathryn Greso who long ago taught her the meaning of the Advent Wreath and to her old friend Sibbi who taught her how to tie the greens into a wreath.



## **Holiday Events**

- Dec. 6** Women's Café party 6pm  
(offsite) 476-4700
- Dec. 10** Sunday Worship  
& Christmas Pageant—10am
- Dec. 14** MMRR Circle Party—10:30 am  
(cookie & gift exchange)
- Dec. 24** Sunday Worship—10 am

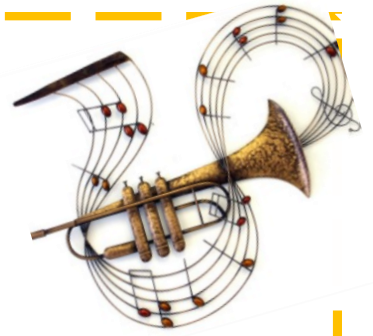


## **Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Sun. Dec. 24th— 7 pm**

Shine your light & invite a friend to this momentous, joyful service. The livestream and recorded Christmas Eve Service will be available on our website.

## Music at St. Stephen's

Advent is here!



Join the Music Team 2024! Hey friends, there is music in the air, can't you just feel those harmonic progression and intervals, bursting all around you. We all like music, and appreciate our gifts. Why not share with our church family and join the music team? If you teach an instrument or voice, please let me know. There is always room for more celebration through music.

*It is the beautiful task of Advent  
To awaken in all of us memories of goodness  
and thus open doors Of HOPE.*

Good News Singers (GNS) will sing for us during Advent. Thank you Janet, Tina, Bill, Margaret, Kirstin, Jeanette & Pr. Jim.

**Advent Christmas Brass — December 17**  
**Full Brass Ensemble 10 am**

Please donate to the "Musicians Fund" to enhance our worship together. Yours in Christ & Mission, Gary.

**PEACE THROUGH HOPE**



### **Poinsettias**

Help adorn the sanctuary for Christmas Eve! Poinsettias may be donated in honor or in memory of loved ones and will be listed in the Christmas Eve bulletin. Call the office. Cost is \$15. Please make the check payable to St. Stephen's, but keep it separate from your regular offering to make bookkeeping easier. You may take your plant home after Sunday, 7pm service to enjoy.

13 Benefit our church ministries.



## The Season of Giving

This holiday season, we thank everyone who has supported St. Stephen's this past year with their time, talent and financial contributions and look forward to support from all of our members in the year ahead.

If you need a convenient way to make regular offerings or if you plan to make an additional gift before the end of the year, we encourage you to check out our electronic giving options. As the pace of life speeds up, especially around the holidays, you may find electronic giving a most welcome way to make contributions.

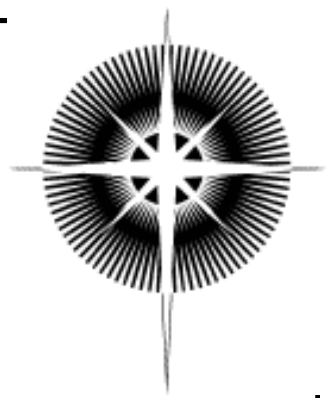
For more info. contact Janet Slay 475-5668

Your 2024 Offering envelopes are here, if you'd like to stop by and pick them up.

**“God uses money to confirm direction.”**

*“Trust in the Lord with all your heart,  
and do not rely on your own insight.  
In all your ways acknowledge him,  
and he will make your paths straight.”*  
*Proverbs 3:5-6*

## **Give a Gift. Change a Life.**



What better way to celebrate the season of Jesus' birth than to give gifts of comfort and joy to those who are in need. Give meaningful gifts that inspire leadership, nourish the hungry and heal the sick.

### **Lutheran World Relief**

provides gifts that improve the lives of people living in poverty around the world. For example: A Goat not only provides a woman farmer with milk to sell, but also helps her build a herd. Coffee seedlings help a farmer grow a lucrative crop that has the potential to significantly improve income. Seeds help farmers grow more and better crops when climate conditions are challenging. Emergency Water delivers immediate, potable water after disaster strikes. **LWR.org/gifts or 1-800-597-5972**

### **Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service**

stands ready to welcome the most vulnerable refugees who are seeking safety and hope in America. Our gifts are essential in rebuilding their lives. Gifts from "Basic Needs Kit" to "Ready for Work kit" can mean so much to those who have nothing but the clothes on their backs. **LIRS.org or 877-291-7061**

### **S.P.I.N. Socks for People in Need (box in narthex)**

NEW socks are a blessing for many reasons, especially health, but also because they provide comfort and a sense of dignity. Basic white crew socks are appreciated by everyone. But you may also choose socks for women and children. Sponsored by the Association of Faith Communities.

Worship livestream online at [www.ststephenslutheran.org](http://www.ststephenslutheran.org)

Recorded for you to view anytime.

Please participate by having your worship bulletin and Celebrate ready

Zoom Bible Studies with Pastor Jim on Thursdays 11am & 7:30pm.

Check your email on Wednesday for the link to the Zoom meeting.

### Our Mission Statement

St. Stephen's is a welcoming, healing community who worship God in Christ, nurture people growing in faith, serve others with acceptance and love, invite people to share the joy of the spirit.

### Reconciling in Christ

"We welcome all who are seeking God's love and grace. We welcome all because God welcomes all, regardless of race or culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or relationship status.

We welcome all without regard to addictions, physical or mental health, imprisonment, socio-economic circumstances, or anything that too often divides us. Our unity is in Christ."

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Office Hours: Mon.—Thurs. 12—5:00 pm

Ministers: The People of St. Stephen's  
Pastor: Rev. James P. Lapp  
Church Administrator: Leslie Lapp  
Church Musician: Gary Roberts  
Sunday School: Leslie Lapp  
Pre-School Director: Kathy Berens  
Custodian: John Hopping  
Videographers: Kent Madsen, Barb Rice, Jay Johnston

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