



Christmas 2024 Nativity of Our Lord

In winter's deepest night, we welcome the light of the Christ child. Isaiah declares that the light of the long-promised king will illumine the world and bring endless peace and justice. Paul reminds us that the grace of God through Jesus Christ brings salvation to all people. The angels declare that Jesus' birth is good and joyful news for everyone, including lowly shepherds. Filled with the light that shines in our lives, we go forth to share the

light of Christ with the whole world.

Welcome to St. Stephen's and Merry Christmas!

We are so glad you are with us to celebrate Christmas! Follow along in this bulletin to participate in our worship today. You are invited to say the word marked with a "C" for congregation and written in bold. You are also invited to sing all these great Christmas carols. We hope you enjoy worshiping with us and again Merry Christmas!

Communion: *Lutheran Christians believe that the Lord Jesus Christ feeds us with his true body and blood "in, with, and under" the bread and wine in the Lord's Supper. All baptized Christians who receive Communion in their own churches are welcome to receive the sacrament. Please note that the darker wine is non-alcoholic and is available from the Lector. Communion will be distributed continuously, in procession. Please come forward as directed by the ushers.*

ST. STEPHEN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
270 South Broadway + Hicksville NY 11801
Church Office: Monday through Friday, 8am - 2pm
Church Office: 516-931-0710
Rev. Dr. Joann Heaney-Hunter
Christine Goetzger-Sedlak, President of the Congregation
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Join us on Facebook: St. Stephens Lutheran Church, Hicksville, NY 11801

+GATHERING+

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose steadfast love is everlasting.

C Amen.

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Pause for silent reflection.

P God-with-us, C **we confess that we have turned away those seeking shelter, claiming there is no room when we have plenty. We have made power and wealth our idols, while you show us true glory: a baby in a manger. We have overlooked the shepherds, expecting good news in prettier packaging. Too often, we have valued violence instead of your peace. Turn us from our ways to your ways. Grant us the grace to begin again. Free us from all that keeps us bound, and forgive our sin, through Jesus Christ, who gives himself for us. Amen.**

P Hear the good news and rejoice! You are God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, † forgiven in Christ, and freed to respond in joy. C Amen.

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST'S BIRTH

P The twenty-fifth day of December, when ages beyond number had passed since the creation of the world, when God created heaven and earth and formed humanity in God's own image.

When centuries had passed since God set the rainbow in the clouds after the Great Flood as a sign of the covenant; in the twenty-first century since Abraham and Sarah, our parents in faith, came from Ur of the Chaldeans; in the thirteenth century since the Israelites were led by Moses in the Exodus from Egypt; around the thousandth year since David was anointed King; in the sixty-fifth week of the prophecy of Daniel.

In the one hundred and ninety-fourth Olympiad; in the seven hundred and fifty second year since the beginning of Rome, in the forty-second year of the reign of Caesar Octavian Augustus; the whole world being at peace, JESUS CHRIST, eternal God and Son of the eternal Father, desiring to sanctify the world by his most loving presence, was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and when nine months had passed, was born of the Virgin Mary in Bethlehem in Judah, and became human: The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to the flesh.

GATHERING SONG: *O 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!

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.**

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Refrain



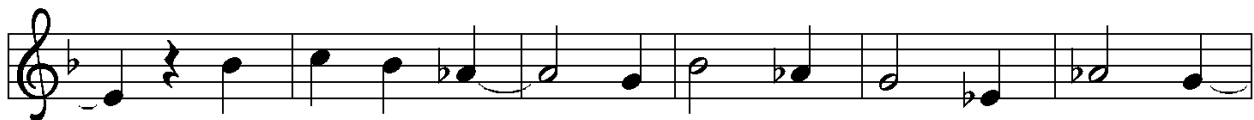
Glo - ry to God in the high - est, the high - est, and



peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



1 Lord God, heav-en - ly King, al - might-y God and Fa - ther,



we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you



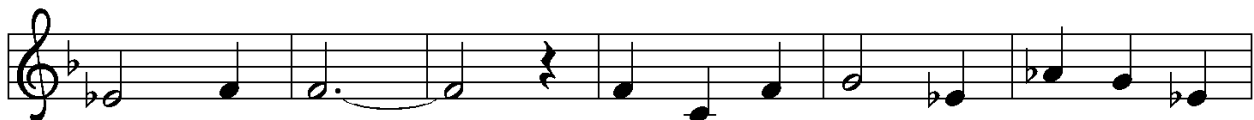
for your glo - ry. *Refrain* Glo - ry to God in the high-



est, the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



2 Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God,



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat-ed at the



right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

Refrain



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, the high - est, and



peace to God's peo - ple on earth. 3 For you a -



lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the



Ho - ly Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther.



A - men. A - men. A - men.

Final refrain



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, the high - est, and peace to God's



peo - ple on earth. Glo - ry to God in the high -



est, the high - est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray. 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.

+WORD+

FIRST READING: Isaiah 9:2-7

A reading from Isaiah.

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. 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. 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. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

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. 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. The word of the Lord. C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 96



Sing to the LORD¹ a new song; sing to the LORD,¹ all the earth.

Sing to the LORD, bless the name¹ of the LORD; proclaim God's salvation from¹ day to day.

Declare God's glory a-¹mong the nations and God's wonders a-¹mong all peoples.

For great is the LORD and greatly¹ to be praised, more to be feared¹ than all gods. R

As for all the gods of the nations, they¹ are but idols; but you, O LORD, have¹ made the heavens.

Majesty and magnificence are¹ in your presence; power and splendor are in your¹ sanctuary.

Ascribe to the LORD, you families¹ of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD hon-¹or and power.

Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the¹ holy name; bring offerings and enter the courts¹ of the LORD. R

Worship the LORD in the beau-¹ty of holiness; tremble before the LORD,¹ all the earth.

Tell it out among the nations: “The¹ LORD is king! The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved will judge the peo-¹ples with equity.”

Let the heavens rejoice, and let the¹ earth be glad; let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that¹ is therein.

Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your com-¹ing, O LORD, for you come to¹ judge the earth.

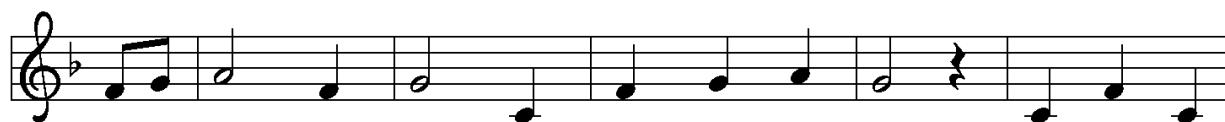
You will judge the¹ world with righteousness and the peoples¹ with your truth. **R**

SECOND READING: Titus 2:11-14

A reading from Titus.

The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. 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. The word of the Lord. **C Thanks be to God.**

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, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL: Luke 2:1-20

P The Lord be with you. C **And also with you.**

P The holy gospel according to Luke. C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. 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. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. 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.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 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: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

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.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. The gospel of the Lord. C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Silent Night, Holy Night!* / *Night of Silence* (ELW 281)



	<i>Stil - le</i>	<i>Nacht,</i>	<i>hei - li-ge</i>	<i>Nacht!</i>	<i>Al - les</i>	<i>schläft,</i>
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.

NICENE CREED

A With the whole church, we confess our faith. **C** 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 The response to today's petitions is: receive our prayer.

A Filled with good news of great joy, let us offer our prayers for the church, the earth, and all people.

A We commend these prayers to you, O God, trusting your grace made known to all, through the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **C Amen.**

PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always. **C And also with you.**

P Let us offer each other a sign of peace.

ADDITIONAL PRAYERS

+MEAL+

OFFERING

A Maiden Most Gentle Sung by the Choir

OFFERING PRAYER

P Let us pray. God of heaven and earth, from the beginning, you have called forth life, in which you take delight. The trees, the fields, and the seas sing for joy. Bless now these gifts, received from your bounty, that we may join the chorus of creation to tell of your salvation from day to day. **C Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE

P The Lord 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.

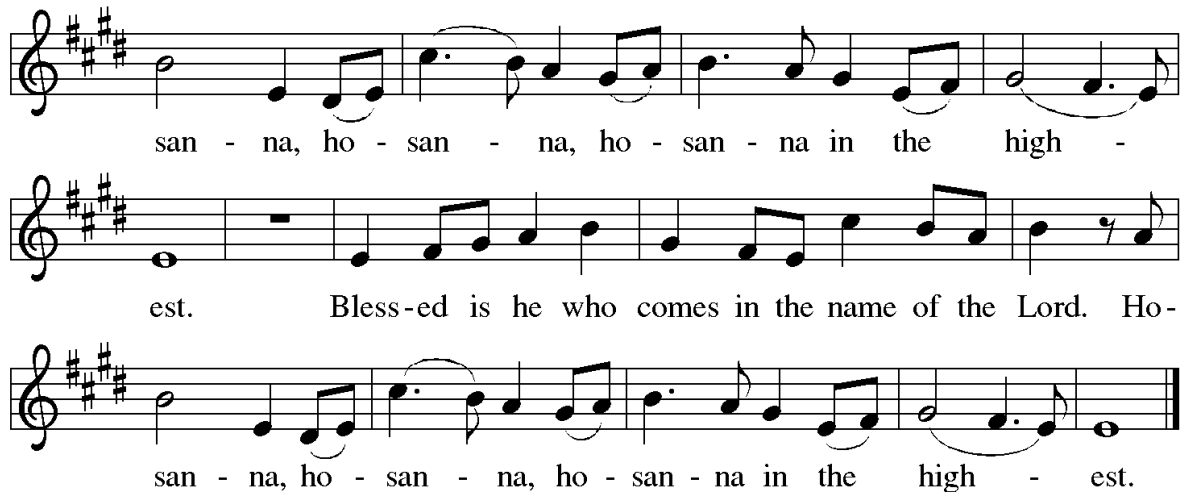
C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

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

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY





san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -
 est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
 san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life...

P ...Let us proclaim the mystery of faith...

C Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P ...We look with hope for his coming... **C Come, Lord Jesus.**

P ...Bring the gift of peace on earth... **C Come, Holy Spirit.**

LORD'S PRAYER

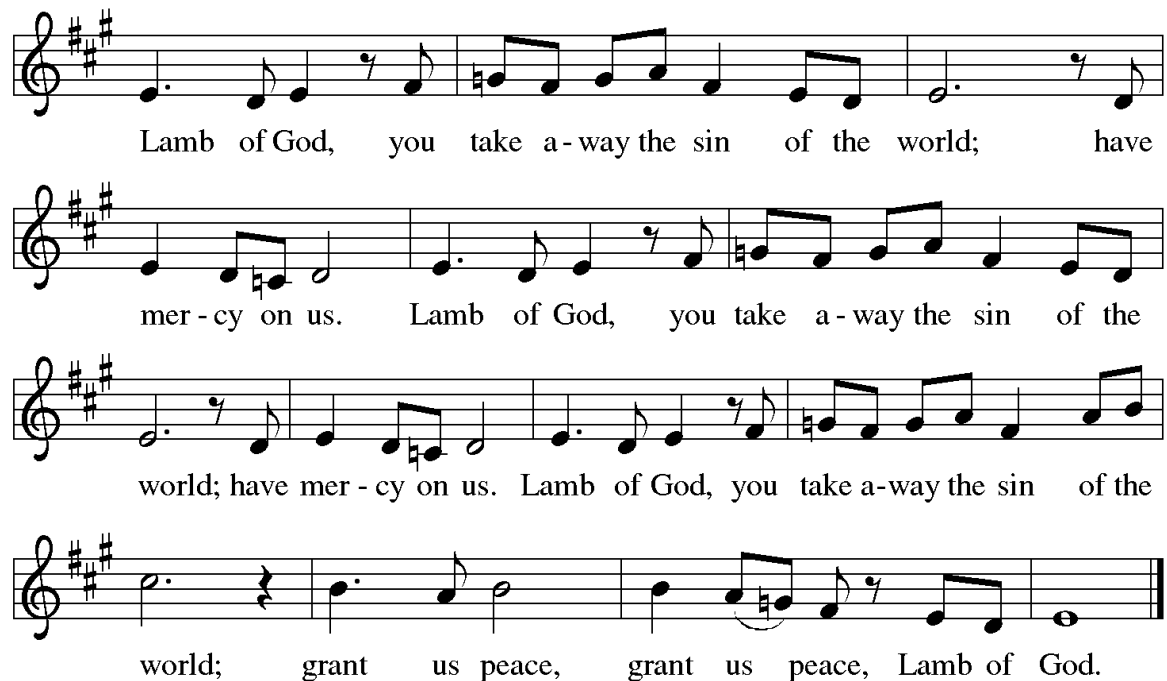
P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

C Our Father, who art in heaven...

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Come to the banquet, for all is now ready. **C Thanks be to God.**

LAMB OF GOD



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, Lamb of God.

SONGS DURING COMMUNION: *Hark the Herald Angels Sing* ELW 270



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!



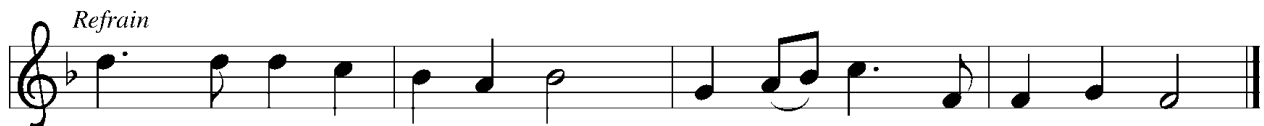
peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled."
late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.



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!"

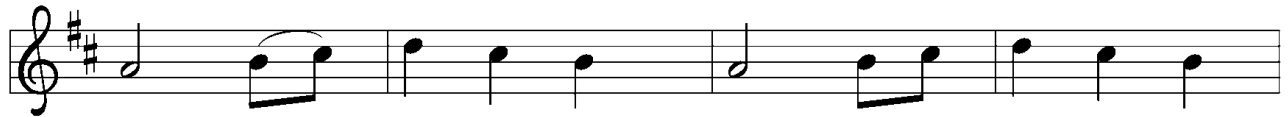
The First Noel (ELW 300)



1 The first No - el the an - gel did say was to
 2 They look - ed up and saw . . . a star shin - ing
 3 And by the light of that . . . same star three . .
 4 This star drew near to the . . . north - west, o'er . .
 5 Then en - tered in those wise . . . men three, full . .



cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where
 in . . . the east . . . be - yond . . . them far; and to the
 wise . . . men came . . . from coun - try far; to seek for a
 Beth - le - hem . . . it took . . . its rest; and there it
 rev - 'rent - ly . . . up - on . . . their knee, and of - fered



they lay, keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's
 earth it gave . . . great light, and . . . so it con -
 king was their . . . in - tent, and to fol - low the
 did both stop . . . and stay right . . . o - ver the
 there in his . . . pres - ence their . . . gold, and

Refrain



night that was so deep.
 tin-ued both day and night.
 star wher - ev - er it went. No - el, No - el, No -
 place where Je - sus lay.
 myrrh, and frank - in - cense.



el, No - el! Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

Go, Tell it on the Mountain (ELW 290)

Refrain



Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!



- 1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
- 2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when, lo, a - bove the earth
- 3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger the hum-ble Christ was born;

Refrain



be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless-ed Christ-mas morn.

Mary did you know? Sung by Andy Crosten

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P Let us pray. Merciful God, we thank you for Jesus, who is our heavenly food. Strengthened by this goodness, send us forth to announce your peace, comfort the afflicted, and share the good news of great joy. **C Amen.**

+SENDING+

BLESSING

P The God of love, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, lavish you with grace, illumine your path, and increase your joy, today and always. **C Amen**

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.

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. The Word of God dwells in you richly. C **Thanks be to God.**

Comments from the Cloud of Witnesses

The events of Jesus' life, and his own divine powers, teach those who can learn that he is true God, and his sufferings openly proclaim him true man. For if he was not flesh, for what reason did Mary bring him forth? And if he was not God, whom then did Gabriel call Lord? If he was not flesh, who then lay in the manger? If he was not God, to whom did the angels coming on earth give glory? If he was not man, who was wrapped in swaddling clothes? If he was not God, whom then did the shepherds adore? . . . If he was not a man, who cried out "My God, why have you forsaken me"? And if he was not God, who then said "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do"? . . . If he were not both God and human, then is our salvation a false thing. —*Ephraem*

Upcoming Commemorations

Stephen, Deacon and Martyr ~ Thursday, December 26, 2024

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.

The Holy Innocents, Martyrs ~ Saturday, December 28, 2024

This day commemorates the young children killed by Herod in Bethlehem in his jealous attempt to murder the baby Jesus, a sobering reminder of the evil that led Christ to be born for our salvation.

Name of Jesus ~ Wednesday, January 1, 2025

By Jewish law, every baby boy was circumcised and named on the eighth day of life, so on the eighth day of Christmas the church celebrates this event in Jesus' life. The keeping of the covenant as well as Jesus' name are signs of God's salvation given to us through him.

We give thanks for:

- **Our Christmas tree is given in loving memory of Joe Muller and Lois Menik by their families.**
- **All who helped prepare our house of worship to welcome Emmanuel, especially our Altar Guild and Property Committee.**
- **All who serve by leading us in worship on these holy days our assisting ministers, lectors, acolytes, ushers and greeters.**
- **All who provide music for our worship: Our Minister of Music, Mason Griffin, Andy Crosten, Greg Hunter and the members of the St. Stephen's Choir.**
- **Our custodian Anthony Agarenzo for keeping our building in shape all year but, especially these busy days.**

The Joy
of CHRISTMAS



Poinsettias are Dedicated to the Glory of God and presented...

IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

Rose & Albert Aiello
George Panaro
Robert Angstadt
Edythe Casey
John, Millie, & Jack Bezko
Loved Ones
Lois Menik
Joseph K. Muller
Ron Goigel, Husband
Tina Shurman
Karin Mae Hagner, Beloved
Sister & Auntie
Mom & Dad
Mom & Aunt Doris
Renate & Rolf Gerdts
Evelyn & Alfred LaVorgna
Elisabeth & Erich Pfeiffer
Herbert & Gladys Maxey
Augusta & William Poit

Our Loved Ones
Our Grandparents
Tony Pendas
Loved Ones
Lillian & John Wilkens

BY:

Lauren & Vinny Aiello
Lauren & Vinny Aiello
Lois Angstadt
Ed & Ann Casey
Jeanne Bezko
Lillian Goigel
Lillian Goigel
Lillian Goigel
Lillian Goigel
Lillian Goigel
Christine, Gabrielle
& Jillian Stephen
Richie & Beth Humann
Richie & Beth Humann
The Lavorgna Family
The Lavorgna Family
The LaVorgna Family
Victoria Maxey
Margie, Rich, Louise, Joe,
William & Lilyan
M. O'Brien
Pendas/ Ahlers Family
Pendas/ Ahlers Family
Paul & Susan Portz
Margie, Rich, Louise, Joe,
William & Lilyan

Margaret & John Wilkens

William Wetzel

William Wetzel

William Wetzel

IN HONOR OF:

Joan Hagner, much loved mother
& Grandmother

Sophie M. Pendas

Our Parents

Bindu Raju

Family and Friends

IN THANKSGIVING FOR:

Greyson & Peyton

Pastor Joann & Greg

The Portz Family

My Family

All My Friends

Christine, Paul, Gabrielle, & Jillian

All of Our Blessings

My St. Stephen's Family

All Our Blessings

My Many Blessings

Our Country

Pastor Joann & Greg

Mason & The Choir

The Congregation

Maureen "Emu" O'Brien

Peggy O'Brien

Our Family

Joan Hagner, much loved mother & grandmother

Margie, Rich, Louise, Joe,
William & Lilyan

Ann Wetzel

Lindsey, Kaylee & Zach

Lisa & Laura

BY:

Christine, Gabrielle,
& Jillian Stephen

M. O'Brien

Pendas/ Ahlers Family

Pendas/ Ahlers Family

Pendas/ Ahlers Family

BY:

Barbara & Kevin Barcavage

Barbara & Kevin Barcavage

Jeanne Bezko

Lillian Goigel

Joan Hagner

Joan Hagner

Richie & Beth Humann

Christel LaVorgna

Bob & Nan Maurer

Victoria Maxey

M. O'Brien

Pendas/ Ahlers Family

Pendas/ Ahlers Family

Pendas/ Ahlers Family

Sophie Pendas

Sophie Pendas

Paul & Susan Portz

Christine, Gabrielle, & Jillian
Stephen

Poinsettia plants may be take home following our worship service of they may be left to adorn our worship space for the rest of the Christmas season.