



Sunday, December 29, 2024
First Sunday of Christmas

On the first Sunday of Christmas we find the boy Samuel and the boy Jesus, both in the temple, both growing in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and all people. We too have returned to the house of God “to sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God,” who has gifted us with a savior. As the festival continues, “let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts.” It is Christmas, still.

WELCOME! We are glad to have you join us in worship today. Here are a few notes to help you feel more at home participating in our worship.

Worshiping. Today’s service is printed in this bulletin. Parts in **bold** indicate responses by everyone in which you are invited to participate.

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 Thursday, 8am - 2pm
Church Office: 516-931-0710
Rev. Dr. Joann Heaney-Hunter
Mason Griffin, Minister of Music
Michelle Burkhardt, Parish Administrator ([email ststephenoffice@msn.com](mailto:ststephenoffice@msn.com))
Church Website www.ststephenshicksville.com
Join us on Facebook: St. Stephens Lutheran Church, Hicksville, NY 11801

+GATHERING+

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. C **Amen.**

P God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. C **Amen.**

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

Pause for silent reflection.

P Most merciful God, C **we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. 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.**

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



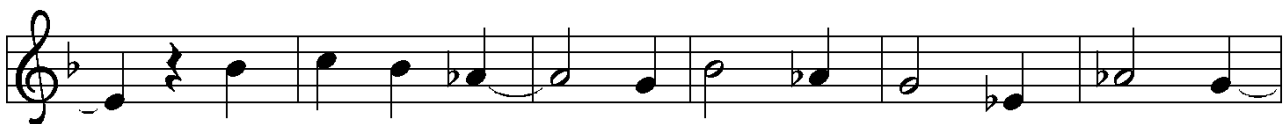
Glo - ry to God in the high - est, the high - est, and



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

Refrain
for your glo - ry. 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. Shine into our hearts the light of your wisdom, O God, and open our minds to the knowledge of your word, that in all things we may think and act according to your good will and may live continually in the light of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. C **Amen.**

+WORD+

FIRST READING: 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26

A reading from 1 Samuel.

Samuel was ministering before the LORD, a boy wearing a linen ephod. His mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year, when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, “May the LORD repay you with children by this woman for the gift that she made to the LORD”; and then they would return to their home.

Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favor with the Lord and with the people. The word of the Lord. **C Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 148 – The Psalm will be recited responsively.

Hallelujah! Praise the LORD | from the heavens; praise God | in the heights.

Praise the LORD, | all you angels; sing praise, all you | hosts of heaven.

Praise the LORD, | sun and moon; sing praise, all you | shining stars.

Praise the LORD, heav- | en of heavens, and you waters a- | bove the heavens.

Let them praise the name | of the LORD, who commanded, and they | were created,
who made them stand fast forev- | er and ever, giving them a law that shall not |
pass away.

Praise the LORD | from the earth, you sea monsters | and all deeps;

fire and hail, | snow and fog, tempestuous wind, do- | ing God's will;

mountains | and all hills, fruit trees | and all cedars;

wild beasts | and all cattle, creeping things and | flying birds;

sovereigns of the earth | and all peoples, princes and all rulers | of the world;

young | men and maidens, old and | young together.

Let them praise the name | of the LORD, whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is
over | earth and heaven.


**The LORD has raised up strength for the people and praise for all | faithful
servants, the children of Israel, a people who are near the LORD. | Hallelujah!**

SECOND READING: Colossians 3:12-17

A reading from Colossians.

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. 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 2:41-52

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

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

Now every year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them. ⁵¹ Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor. The gospel of the Lord.

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

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: *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!"

APOSTLES' CREED

A With the whole church we confess our faith.

C I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. 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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THIS WEEK'S BIRTHDAYS

Christine Goetzger-Sedlak 12/30

BIRTHDAY SONG

He who began a good work in you 2x

Will be faithful to complete it (Clap 3x)

Will be faithful to complete it (Clap 3x)

He who started the work will be faithful to complete it in you!

+MEAL+

OFFERING: *Away in a Manger* (ELW 277)



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



Je - sus laid down his sweet head; the stars in the bright sky looked
Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes. I love you, Lord Je - sus; look
ev - er and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear chil - dren in



down where he lay, the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
down from the sky and stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.
your ten - der care and fit us for heav - en, to live with you there.

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 (ELW p. 190)



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,




heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo - ry. Ho -



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, mighty, and merciful Lord...

LORD'S PRAYER

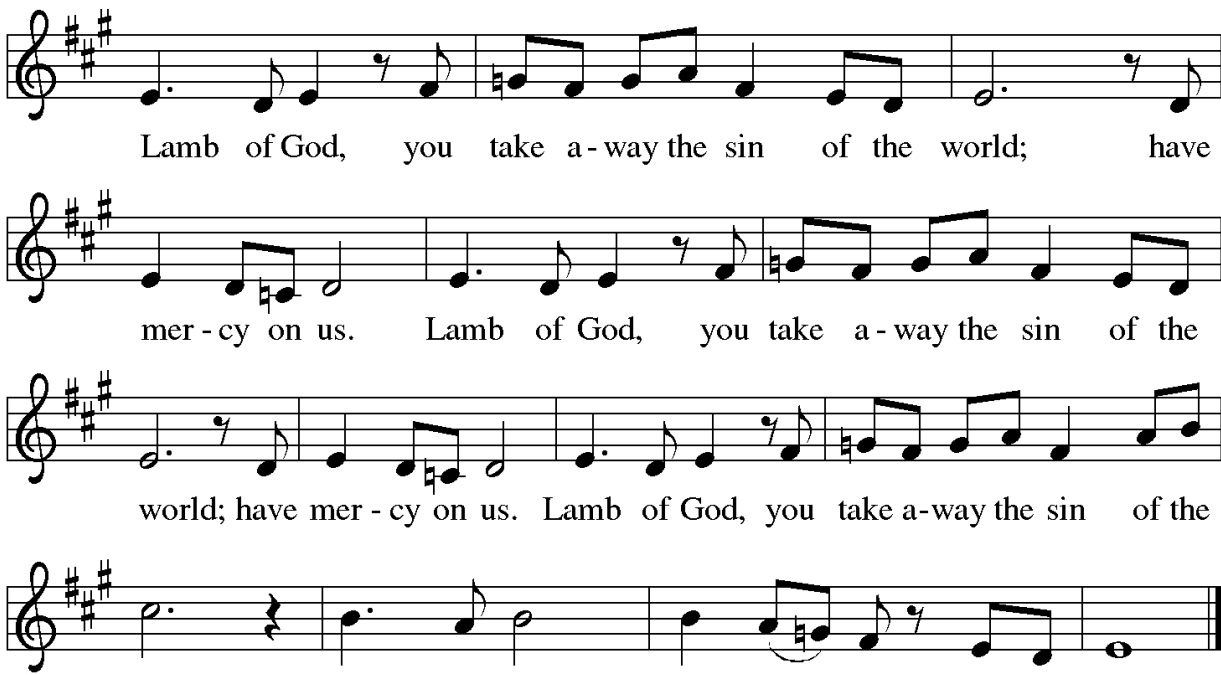
P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.

SONG DURING COMMUNION: *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.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P Let us pray. Radiant God, with our eyes we have seen your salvation, and in this meal we have feasted on your grace. May your Word take flesh in us, that we may be your holy people, revealing your glory made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. 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: *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.

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 great God, while abiding in the divine nature, is born a child according to the flesh and grows for a certain space of time and after the manner of the flesh. This is so that we who are children in mind, and almost without mind[!], may be spiritually reborn, and so that we may grow up according to the grades of the spiritual ages and advance in wisdom and grace. Jesus' bodily growth is our spiritual growth. So let his corporeal birth be our spiritual birth, that is, the beginning of our conversion. Let his growing up in Nazareth express our advancement in perfection.—*Aelred*

Upcoming Commemorations

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.

**Announcements for the week of
December 29, 2024**

*The Sanctuary Candle for December
is given to the glory of God and in loving memory of **Frank O'Brien** by his daughter
Maureen O'Brien.*



~ Anyone who would like to pick up a poinsettia please feel free to take one after worship.

~ **Farewell Breakfast for Pastor Joann** ~ On January 5th we will be holding a breakfast in the Pastor's lounge following worship where we can gather to say our goodbyes to Pastor Joann and Greg. We're hoping you'll join us as we express our thanks for all they've done for St. Stephen's and wish them Godspeed as they start on a new path in their lives.

~ **2025 Offering Envelopes** are available for pick-up in the Narthex. These envelopes are vital to our keeping accurate records and our being able to provide/generate tax statements. If you are an electronic giving participant, these envelopes still have a use. Included in your box are "special" envelopes that can be used for special times in the church year such as Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter etc... So...Use Your Envelopes!

~ A chart on the lobby bulletin board allows us to designate weekly Sunday service altar flowers or the monthly sanctuary lamp candle as special memorial/in honor of gifts. Use the envelopes provided to forward the gift (\$25.00 for flowers; \$15.00 for candle). Be sure to include information concerning who is being honored/memorialized by your gift as well as your name, address and telephone number. You may also contact the church office at (516) 931-0710.

~ Please note the office will be closed on December 31st and January 1st.

PARISH CALENDAR THIS WEEK (December 30th - January 5th)

Today **1st Sunday of Christmas**
 9:30 am Holy Communion

Next Sunday, 2nd Sunday of Christmas
 9:30 am Holy Communion

SERVING AT WORSHIP TODAY

Sunday, 9:30 AM

ASSISTING MINISTER: Beth Feeney
LECTOR: Brianna Feeney
ACOLYTE: Sara LaGuarin
USHERS: Kevin Barcavage
ACCOMPANIST Mason Griffin & Greg Hunter
GREETER: Claire Parrett
AUDIO/VISUAL: Tyler LaVorgna
ALTAR GUILD: Beth & Jane

PARISH PRAYER LIST

If you would like to have your name or your friend or family member's name added to the Prayer List, please call the office. Please remember to keep the office updated.

PRAY FOR OUR CONGREGATION

Bill Artus
Dottie Eberhardt
Roger Engert
Ilona Riggers

PRAY FOR OUR FAMILIES

Joe DiSalvo (cousin of Maureen O'Brien)
James Ebersberger (brother of Jane Ebersberger)
Jim Fritz (cousin of Lauren Artus and John Langbehn)
William Stanton (cousin of Kellie Barone)

PRAY FOR OUR FRIENDS

Rich Carlstrom (friend of the Staton family)
Cheryl Glasini (friend of the Ahlers-Pendas family)
John Judge (friend of Jane Ebersberger)
Ellen Motoi (friend of Maureen O'Brien)
Sarah Motyka (friend of the Maurer family)
Megan Mudd (friend of the Staton family)
Betty, John & Mary Beth Ott (friends of Jane Ebersberger)
John Sheridan (friend of Bob and Nan Maurer)