

# ***St. Stephen Lutheran Church***

Member congregation of the Church of the Lutheran Confession (clclutheran.org)

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**December 1, 2024 † Advent 1**

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**We Welcome Our Visitors** who are with us this morning.

We hope that you are uplifted by the Gospel at our worship service.  
We invite you to join us every Sunday. Please sign our guestbook in the entry.

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† Preparation for Worship: Read Psalm 25 (Lutheran Service Book or Pew Bible) †

**Our Worship Services will be Posted to Our Website Each Sunday Evening.  
To Watch our Worship Service Online Please Click This Link:**

**<https://www.sslwest.org/worship.html>**

# Opening Hymn: 357 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

LSB 357



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som  
2 O come, Thou Wis - dom from on high, Who or - d'rest  
3 O come, O come, Thou Lord of might, Who to Thy  
4 O come, Thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, Free them from

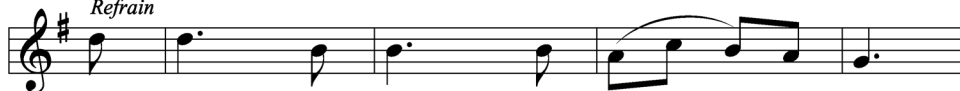


cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly  
all things might - i - ly; To us the path of  
tribes on Si - nai's height In an - cient times didst  
Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny That trust Thy might - y



ex - ile here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
knowl - edge show, And teach us in her ways to go.  
give the Law In cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.  
pow'r to save, And give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.

## Refrain



Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el



Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

5 O come, Thou Key of David, come,  
And open wide our heav'nly home;  
Make safe the way that leads on high,  
And close the path to misery. Refrain

Text: Latin, c. 12th cent.; Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum, 1710, Köln; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-66, alt.

Tune: French, 15th cent.

Text and tune: Public domain

## Advent Invocation

*We invoke ("call upon") the name of the one true God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.*

**P** In the name of the Triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

## Confession and Absolution

*We come before our Holy God recognizing that we are sinful and daily need His forgiveness.*

**P** Jesus is the Light of the World, and in Him is no darkness at all.

**C** **If we walk in the light as He is in the light,  
we have fellowship with one another,  
and the blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son, cleanses us from all sin.**

**P** In this Advent season we celebrate the *coming* of Jesus, the Light of the World.

**C** **Dear Jesus, we celebrate Your coming at Your birth in Bethlehem.  
We thank You for coming into our hearts by Your gift of faith,  
and we look forward to Your coming on the Last Day when You will take us,  
and all believers, to be with You forever in heaven.**

**P** As we meditate on Your manger, Your cross, Your empty tomb, and Your Word, we come before Your throne today confessing our sins and asking for Your forgiveness.

**C** **Lord of heaven and earth, forgive us all our sins.  
As we see the world in darkness and in need of Your light,  
increase our faith, love, courage, and strength.  
Give us Your power to be lights in this world, reflecting Your love. Amen.**

**P** Our Father in Heaven has been good and merciful to us. In His love He has given us, His children, the greatest Gift: He sent His Son Jesus, the Christ Child, whose birth in Bethlehem so long ago we celebrate. Jesus came as a lowly servant to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. By His shed blood on the cross we are forgiven! In peace and joy let us sing of our salvation!

## Hymn 344 v. 2, 5 Then Cleansed Be Ev'ry Life from Sin

LSB 344 v. 2, 5

2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; Make straight the  
Δ 5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to Thee Whose ad - vent

way for God with - in, And let us all our  
sets Thy peo - ple free, Whom with the Fa - ther

hearts pre - pare For Christ to come and en - ter there.  
we a - dore And Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676–1749; tr. composite  
Tune: adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621  
Text and tune: Public domain

## Prayer of the Day

**P** We pray:

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance. We pray this through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## First Reading

## I Thessalonians 3:9-13 (NKJV)

***<sup>9</sup> For what thanks can we render to God for you, for all the joy with which we rejoice for your sake before our God, <sup>10</sup> night and day praying exceedingly that we may see your face and perfect what is lacking in your faith? <sup>11</sup> Now may our God and Father Himself, and our Lord Jesus Christ, direct our way to you. <sup>12</sup> And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love to one another and to all, just as we do to you, <sup>13</sup> so that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints.***

**P** The Gospel reading is from Luke 21:25-36.

**C** Sanctify us by Your truth, O LORD. Your Word is truth!

*<sup>25</sup> " And there will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring; <sup>26</sup> "men's hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of heaven will be shaken. <sup>27</sup> "Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. <sup>28</sup> "Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near." <sup>29</sup> Then He spoke to them a parable: "Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. <sup>30</sup> "When they are already budding, you see and know for yourselves that summer is now near. <sup>31</sup> "So you also, when you see these things happening, know that the kingdom of God is near. <sup>32</sup> "Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all things take place. <sup>33</sup> "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away. <sup>34</sup> " But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly. <sup>35</sup> "For it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth. <sup>36</sup> "Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man."*

**P** Here ends our Scripture readings.

**C** Praise be to You, O Christ!

**The 2<sup>nd</sup> Article of the Apostle's Creed** *with explanation from Luther's Catechism (Sydow, p. 87)*

**C** I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, Our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven and sits on the right hand of God, the Father Almighty; from there He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man,

born of the virgin Mary is my Lord.

He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person,  
purchased and won me from all sin, from death, and from the power of the devil,  
not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood  
and His innocent suffering and death.

He did this that I should be His very own, live under Him in His kingdom,  
and serve Him in eternal righteousness, innocence, and joy;  
just as He is risen from death, lives and reigns in eternity.

This is most certainly true!

### Hymn of the Day: 350 Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come

LSB 350



1 Come, Thou pre - cious Ran - som, come, On - ly hope for  
2 En - ter now my wait - ing heart, Glo - rious King and  
3 My ho - san - nas and my palms Gra - cious - ly re -  
4 Hail! Ho - san - na, Da - vid's Son! Je - sus, hear our



sin - ful mor - tals! Come, O Sav - ior of the world!  
Lord most ho - ly. Dwell in me and ne'er de - part,  
ceive, I pray Thee; Ev - er - more, as best I can,  
sup - pli - ca - tion! Let Thy king - dom, scept - er, crown,



O - pen are to Thee all por - tals. Come, Thy beau - ty  
Though I am but poor and low - ly. Ah, what rich - es  
Sav - ior, I will hom - age pay Thee, And in faith I  
Bring us bless - ing and sal - va - tion, That for - ev - er



let us see; Anx - ious - ly we wait for Thee.  
will be mine When Thou art my guest di - vine!  
will em - brace, Lord, Thy mer - it through Thy grace.  
we may sing: Hail! Ho - san - na to our King.

Text: Johann Gottfried Olearius, 1635–1711; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.

Tune: Neu-verfertigtes Darmstädtisches Gesang-Buch, 1699, Darmstadt

Text and tune: Public domain

**Sermon Text: Jeremiah 33:14-16**

**(NKJV)**

*<sup>14</sup> 'Behold, the days are coming,' says the LORD, 'that I will perform that good thing which I have promised to the house of Israel and to the house of Judah: <sup>15</sup> 'In those days and at that time I will cause to grow up to David A Branch of righteousness; He shall execute judgment and righteousness in the earth. <sup>16</sup> In those days Judah will be saved, And Jerusalem will dwell safely. And this is the name by which she will be called: THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.'*

**Sermon Theme: What's In a Name?**

**- THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS**

**Offertory**

LSB 956

**956 Create in Me**

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 Thy pres - ence; and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it  
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va - tion;  
and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

Public domain

**Offering** *We offer our gifts to the Lord, remembering that He has first given to us that we might have to give to Him.*

# Sermon Hymn 334 O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

LSB 334



1 O Lord, how shall I meet You, How wel - come You a - right?  
2 Your Zi - on strews be - fore You Green boughs and fair - est palms;  
3 I lay in fet - ters, groan - ing; You came to set me free.  
4 Love caused Your in - car - na - tion; Love brought You down to me.



Your peo - ple long to greet You, My hope, my heart's de - light!  
And I too will a - dore You With joy - ous songs and psalms.  
I stood, my shame be - moan - ing; You came to hon - or me.  
Your thirst for my sal - va - tion Pro - cured my lib - er - ty.



O kin - dle, Lord most ho - ly, Your lamp with - in my breast  
My heart shall bloom for - ev - er For You with prais - es new  
A glo - rious crown You give me, A trea - sure safe on high  
Oh, love be - yond all tell - ing, That led You to em - brace



To do in spir - it low - ly All that may please You best.  
And from Your name shall nev - er With - hold the hon - or due.  
That will not fail or leave me As earth - ly rich - es fly.  
In love, all love ex - cel - ling, Our lost and fall - en race.

5 Sin's debt, that fearful burden,  
Cannot His love erase;  
Your guilt the Lord will pardon  
And cover by His grace.  
He comes, for you procuring  
The peace of sin forgiv'n,  
His children thus securing  
Eternal life in heav'n.

6 He comes to judge the nations,  
A terror to His foes,  
A light of consolations  
And blessèd hope to those



Who love the Lord's appearing.

O glorious Sun, now come,

Send forth Your beams so cheering,

And guide us safely home.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–76; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.

Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598–1662

Text and tune: Public domain

**Prayer of the Church** *We bring our prayers to God.*

## 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.**

## Service of the Sacrament

*Now we approach the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper in which Jesus comes to bless us with His very body and blood.  
We move toward the Sacrament with prayers of thanksgiving and songs of adoration.*

## The Words of Institution

*The words spoken by Jesus the night He instituted the Lord's Supper, by which our Lord assured to His Church the real presence of His body and blood in the Sacrament.*

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always!

**☩ Amen.**

## The Distribution

*Note to our Guests: We are so glad you are worshiping with us this morning! The Word of God treats the Lord's Supper with great care. The Word of God considers the Lord's Supper to be a wonderful Means of Grace – a way in which Christ forgives and blesses. It is also considered an opportunity for congregations to express unity and oneness (1 Corinthians 10:16-17) – that is, to say to the world "This is what we believe!" But God's Word also warns against taking the Sacrament to our judgment (1 Corinthians 11:27-30). For these reasons our congregation asks that you fully understand our teachings before partaking. We respectfully ask that those who have joined this congregation through public confession of faith, or who are members of another congregation of the Church of the Lutheran Confession (CLC) approach the altar at the usher's direction. Speak to our*

pastor anytime and he will be glad to provide the information you would need – and want. We look forward to communing together, Lord willing, in the future.

**Benediction** *The blessing given by God for the blessing of His people (Numbers 6:24-26).*

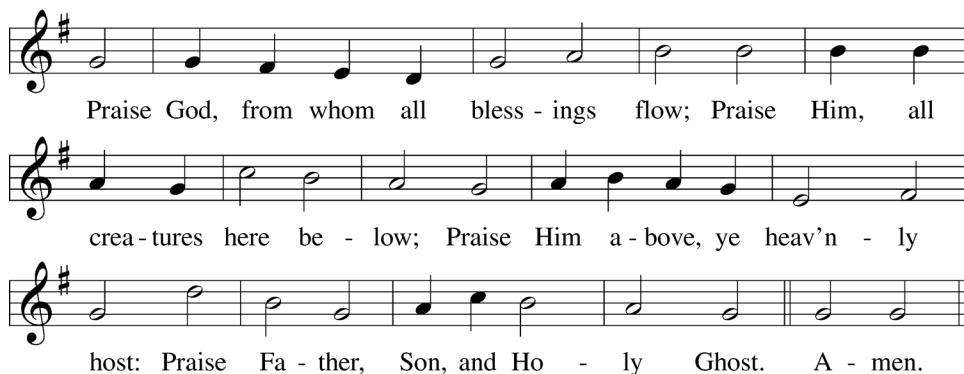
☐ The LORD bless you and keep you.

The LORD make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The LORD lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.

## The Doxology

LSB 805

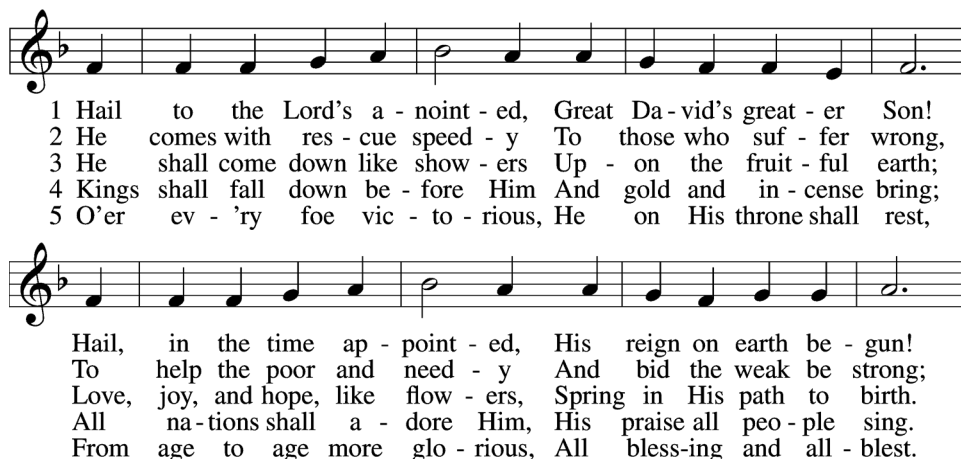


Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise Him, all  
crea - tures here be - low; Praise Him a - bove, ye heav'n - ly  
host: Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

Public domain

## Closing Hymn: 398 Hail to the Lord's Anointed

LSB 398



1 Hail to the Lord's a - noint - ed, Great Da - vid's great - er Son!  
2 He comes with res - cue speed - y To those who suf - fer wrong,  
3 He shall come down like show - ers Up - on the fruit - ful earth;  
4 Kings shall fall down be - fore Him And gold and in - cense bring;  
5 O'er ev - 'ry foe vic - to - rious, He on His throne shall rest,  
Hail, in the time ap - point - ed, His reign on earth be - gun!  
To help the poor and need - y And bid the weak be strong;  
Love, joy, and hope, like flow - ers, Spring in His path to birth.  
All na - tions shall a - dore Him, His praise all peo - ple sing.  
From age to age more glo - rious, All bless - ing and all - blest.



He comes to break op - pres - sion, To set the cap - tive free,  
 To give them songs for sigh - ing, Their dark - ness turn to light,  
 Be - fore Him on the moun - tains Shall peace, the her - ald, go;  
 To Him shall prayer un - ceas - ing And dai - ly vows as - cend;  
 The tide of time shall nev - er His cov - e - nant re - move;



To take a - way trans - gres - sion And rule in eq - ui - ty.  
 Whose souls, con - demned and dy - ing, Were pre - cious in His sight.  
 And righ - teous - ness in foun - tains From hill to val - ley flow.  
 His king - dom still in - creas - ing, A king - dom with - out end.  
 His name shall stand for - ev - er— That name to us is Love.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt.

Tune: Leonhart Schröter, c. 1532–c. 1601

Text and tune: Public domain

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today: After Worship Service: **11:00 a.m. Voter’s Call Meeting**  
 12/1/24 **11:15 a.m. Children’s Christmas Eve Practice**  
**Church Christmas Decorating**

Next Sunday: **10:00 a.m. Worship Service**  
 12/8/24 **11:15 a.m. Children’s Christmas Eve Practice**  
**Choir Rehearsal**

**In Your Mailbox** – St. Stephen Church Calendar – *December and contribution envelopes for 2025*



### **Christmas Tree and Church Decorating**

#### **TODAY (12/1/24)**

We plan to put up the Christmas tree and church Christmas decorations

**Food Donations for Thanksgiving and Christmas** – We are collecting non-perishable food items to deliver to the Community Service Agency (CSA) in

Mountain View for Thanksgiving and Christmas. There is a large box in the church entry marked "Food Drive."

**Election of Church Officers** At a recent voter's meeting, the following men were elected to serve in their respective offices: Timothy Blank, President; Jan Messersmidt, Vice President and Chairman of the Board of Elders; Brenton Horrillo, Treasurer; Gary Fenton, Secretary; Michael Horrillo, Chairman of the Board of Property; Michael Slattengren, Chairman of the Board of Education; Isaac Schmitt, Chairman of the Board of Mission; and Mark Gullerud, Financial Secretary. The installation of these officers will take place on the first Sunday in January 2025.

### The Advent Wreath



The Advent wreath is rich in symbolism, and as such it aids our worship as it reinforces our hope in the ultimate coming of our Lord. The wreath is covered with evergreen. Just as this species of tree is always green, so our hope for eternity is always alive because it rests upon the living Christ. The wreath is also in the form of a circle, which has no beginning and no end. What better way to picture that our life with God is everlasting.

The lighted candles are symbolic of the light of Christ and His Gospel, which alone can lift us out of our sin & spiritual darkness. The 4 Advent candles remind us of the 4000 years of waiting for Christ by the Old Testament world. The 3 purple candles are the color for **repentance**. The rose candle is the color for **joy**. Each of the 4 candles has been assigned a special name with special significance: **Prophecy Candle, Bethlehem Candle, Shepherd Candle, and Angels' Candle. The Christ Candle** is the white candle in the center, and is lit on Christmas Eve. It signals that He Who is the Light of the world has been born.

#### Christmas Season Worship Schedule 2024

Advent Worship Scripture, Carols & Christmas Cookies – Wed. Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> - 6pm

Christmas Eve – Sun. Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> – 5p.m. Children's Christmas Eve Service

Christmas Day – Mon. Dec. 25<sup>th</sup> – 10 a.m. Christmas Day Worship

