

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

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

320 Moorpark Way - Mountain View, California 94041-1600

Mark Gullerud: Vacancy Pastor

**Email:** [markgull76@hotmail.com](mailto:markgull76@hotmail.com) † **Cell:** (605) 282-9185

**Church Office:** (650) 964-5915



Online Video Production: Chris Holt, Michael Slattengren

**Website:** [sslwest.org](http://sslwest.org)

St. Stephen Lutheran School Staff: Isaac & Mikkela Schmitt (Teachers),  
Julia Bernthal (Administrator), Isaac Schmitt (Principal)

**School Office:** (650) 961-2071

**School Website:** [ssls.org](http://ssls.org)

**December 25, 2024 † Christmas Day Worship Service**



---

**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.

---

† Preparation for Worship: Read Psalm 149 (Lutheran Service Book or Pew Bible) †

**Our Worship Service tonight will be Posted to Our Website tomorrow by  
midafternoon.**

**To Watch our Worship Service Online Please Click This Link:**

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

## Opening Prayer

Opening Hymn 84 st.1,5,6 Christians, Awake, Salute the Happy Morn (TLH)

Christians, awake, salute the happy morn  
Whereon the Savior of the world was born.  
Rise to adore the mystery of love  
Which hosts of angels chanted from above.  
With them the joyful tidings first begun  
Of God Incarnate and the Virgin's Son.

Oh, may we keep and ponder in our mind  
God's wondrous love in saving lost mankind!  
Trace we the Babe, who hath retrieved our loss,  
From His poor manger to His bitter cross,  
Tread in His steps, assisted by His grace,  
Till man's first heavenly state again takes place.

Then may we hope, th' angelic hosts among,  
To sing, redeemed, a glad triumphant song.  
He that was born upon this joyful day  
Around us all His glory shall display.  
Saved by His love, incessant we shall sing  
Eternal praise to heaven's almighty King.

## 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.

## Responsive Reading

**P** Unto us a Child is born,

**C** Unto us a Son is given;

**P** And the government will be upon His shoulder.

**C And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

**P** Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end,

**C Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom,**

To order it and establish it with judgment and justice

**P** From that time forward, even forever.

**All: The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.**

♪ **Rejoice, rejoice, this happy morn,  
A Savior unto us is born,  
The Christ, the Lord of Glory.  
His lowly birth in Bethlehem  
The angels from on high proclaim  
And sing redemption's story.  
My soul, extol God's great favor,  
Bless Him ever for salvation,  
Give Him praise and adoration. Amen.**

*(TLH Hymn 79)*

### **Christmas Prayer**

Lord God, heavenly Father, we give thanks to You that of Your mercy and compassion You caused Your Son to become incarnate, and through Him redeemed us from sin and everlasting death; We beseech You, enlighten our hearts by Your Holy Spirit, that we may ever be thankful for such grace, and comfort ourselves thereby in all tribulation and temptation, and at last obtain eternal salvation; through the same, Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

### **God's Christmas Gift to Us**

*(NKJV)*

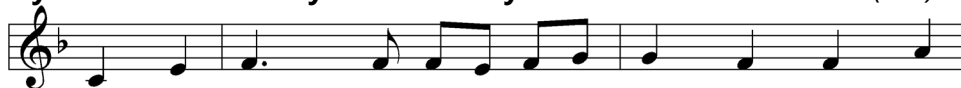
**Luke 2:1-7** *And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup> This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria. <sup>3</sup> So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city. <sup>4</sup> Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of*

David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, <sup>5</sup> to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child. <sup>6</sup> So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. <sup>7</sup> And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

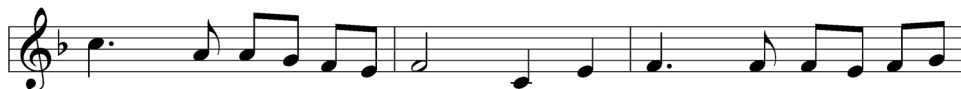
**Meditation: God's Gift comes in a small form and in a lowly manner.**

**Hymn 376 Once in Royal David's City**

(LSB)



1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y Stood a  
 2 He came down to earth from heav - en, Who is  
 3 For He is our child - hood's pat - tern, Day by  
 4 And our eyes at last shall see Him, Through His  
 5 Not in that poor, low - ly sta - ble With the



low - ly cat - tle shed, Where a moth - er laid her  
 God and Lord of all, And His shel - ter was a  
 day like us He grew; He was lit - tle, weak, and  
 own re - deem - ing love; For that child so dear and  
 ox - en stand - ing by Shall we see Him, but in



ba - by In a man - ger for His bed: Mar - y  
 sta - ble, And His cra - dle was a stall; With the  
 help - less, Tears and smiles like us He knew; And He  
 gen - tle Is our Lord in heav'n a - bove; And He  
 heav - en, Set at God's right hand on high. Then like



was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child.  
 poor and mean and low - ly Lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.  
 feels for all our sad - ness, And He shares in all our glad - ness.  
 leads His chil - dren on To the place where He is gone.  
 stars His chil - dren, crowned, All in white, His praise will sound!

Text: Cecil F. Alexander, 1818–95, alt.

Tune: Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805–76

Text and tune: Public domain

**Luke 2:8-12** <sup>8</sup> Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup> And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. <sup>10</sup> Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. <sup>11</sup> "For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup> "And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger."

**Meditation: God's Gift is first distributed by a special ambassador to a select few.**

### 370 What Child Is This



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mar - y's lap is  
 2 Why lies He in such mean es - tate Where ox and ass are  
 3 So bring Him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peas - ant, king, to



sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet While  
 feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here The  
 own Him. The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; Let



shep - herds watch are keep - ing? This, this is  
 si - lent Word is plead - ing. Nails, spear shall  
 lov - ing hearts en - throne Him. Raise, raise the



Christ the king, Whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;  
 pierce Him through, The cross be borne for me, for you;  
 song on high, The vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The babe, the son of Mar - y!  
 Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the son of Mar - y!  
 Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mar - y!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–98  
Tune: English, 16th cent.  
Text and tune: Public domain

**Luke 2:13,14** <sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: <sup>14</sup> "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"

**Meditation: God's Gift prompts the first Christmas hymn of praise.**

### 380 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

(LSB)



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!



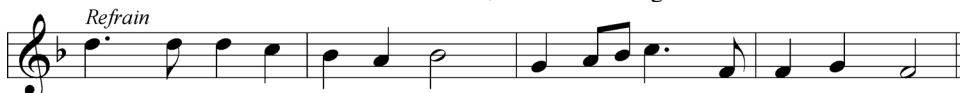
Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"  
Late in time be - hold Him come, Off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.  
Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with heal - ing in His wings.



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;  
Veiled in flesh the God - head see, Hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty!  
Mild He lays His glo - ry by, Born that man no more may die,



With the an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"  
Pleased as Man with man to dwell, Je - sus, our Im - man - u - el!  
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them sec - ond birth.



*Refrain*  
Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King!"

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–88, alt.  
Tune: Felix Mendelssohn, 1809–47  
Text and tune: Public domain

**Luke 2:15-20** <sup>15</sup> So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, "Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us." <sup>16</sup> And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger. <sup>17</sup> Now when they had seen Him, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child. <sup>18</sup> And all those who heard it marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds. <sup>19</sup> But Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup> Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told them.

**Meditation: God's Gift is accompanied with the gift to receive it in faith and the spirit to share it.**

### Responsive Reading

**P** Unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior who is Christ the Lord!

**C** Hallelujah!

**P** The Word became flesh and dwelled among us!

**C** And we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

**P** Thanks be to God for His inexpressible Gift!

**C** Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!

Hallelujah!

### 386 Now Sing We, Now Rejoice

(LSB)



1 Now sing we, now re - joice,	Now raise to heav'n our voice;
2 Come from on high to me;	I can - not rise to Thee.
3 Now through His Son doth shine	The Fa - ther's grace di - vine.
4 Oh, where shall joy be found?	Where but on heav'n - ly ground?



He from whom joy stream - eth	Poor in a man - ger lies;
Cheer my wea - ried spir - it,	O pure and ho - ly Child;
Death was reign - ing o'er us	Through sin and van - i - ty
Where the an - gels sing - ing	With all His saints u - nite,



Not so bright-ly beam-eth The sun in yon-der skies.  
 Through Thy grace and mer-it, Blest Je-sus, Lord most mild,  
 Till He o-pened for us A bright e-ter-ni-ty.  
 Sweet-est prais-es bring-ing In heav'n-ly joy and light.



Thou my Sav-ior art! Thou my Sav-ior art!  
 Draw me un-to Thee! Draw me un-to Thee!  
 May we praise Him there! May we praise Him there!  
 Oh, that we were there! Oh, that we were there!

Text: Latin and German, 14th cent.; tr. Arthur T. Russell, 1806–74, alt.

Tune: German, 14th cent.

Text and tune: 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.*

**Christmas Prayer** *We bring our prayers to God.*

**Lord's Prayer**

LSB 209

**☩ 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.**

## 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.

**☩** Amen, Amen, Amen.



### 378 Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light

(LSB)



1 Break forth, O beau - teous heav'n - ly light, And  
 2 O dear - est Child, whom I a - dore, Whose  
 3 All bless - ing, thanks, and praise to Thee, Lord



ush - er in the morn - ing. Ye shep - herds, shrink not  
 grace sur - pass - es mea - sure, My Broth - er, whom I  
 Je - sus Christ, be giv - en: Thou hast my Broth - er



with af - fright, The day of grace is dawn - ing. This  
 cher - ish more Than earth with all its trea - sure: Haste  
 deigned to be, Thou Lord of earth and heav - en. Help



Child, though weak in in - fan - cy, Our con - fi -  
 from Thy man - ger to de - part, O come and  
 me through - out this day of grace To praise Thy



dence and joy shall be, The pow'r of Sa - tan  
 dwell with - in my heart; With joy will I re -  
 love and seek Thy face; And when I stand be -



break - ing, Our peace with God now mak - ing.  
 ceive Thee, A cra - dle there will give Thee.  
 fore Thee For - ev - er to a - dore Thee.

Text: Johann Rist, 1607–67; tr. "Lutheran Hymnal (Australia)", 1973

Tune: Johann Schop, c. 1590–1667

Text: © 1973 Openbook Publishers. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 130003862

Tune: Public domain

**Acknowledgments** - Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2024 Concordia Publishing House.

Scripture taken from the New King James Version®. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson. Used by permission.

All rights reserved.

---

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next Sunday: **10:00 a.m. Worship Service**  
12/29/24

Wednesday **10:00 a.m. New Year's Day Worship Service**  
1/1/24

Sunday **10:00 a.m. Epiphany Sunday Communion Worship Service**  
1/5/25 **Installation of Church Officers**

**Christmas Greeting** May our heavenly Father, who gave us the best Christmas gift ever when He sent His only begotten Son into this world as Savior, bless all of you with a joyous Christmas in the Christchild.

**Annual Reports** are due to turn sent in to Gary Fenton by Sunday, January 12<sup>th</sup>, and the Annual Report meeting will be held on the following Sunday of January 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Installation of Church Officers** will be at the Sunday worship service on January 5, 2024.