

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

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

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Mark Gullerud: Vacancy Pastor

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**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 29, 2024** † **Sunday after Christmas**

Note: Sung responses will have musical notes 🎵 next to them.  
All other responses will be spoken.



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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 62 (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: 384 Of the Father's Love Begotten

LSB 384



1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten Ere the worlds be -  
 2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, When the vir - gin,  
 3 This is He whom seers in old time Chant - ed of with  
 4 O ye heights of heav'n, a - dore Him; An - gel hosts, His  
 Δ 5 Christ, to Thee, with God the Fa - ther, And, O Ho - ly



gan to be, He is Al - pha and O - me - ga,  
 full of grace, By the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,  
 one ac - cord, Whom the voic - es of the proph - ets  
 prais - es sing. Pow'rs, do - min - ions, bow be - fore Him  
 Ghost, to Thee Hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing



He the source, the end - ing He, Of the things that are, that  
 Bore the Sav - ior of our race, And the babe, the world's Re -  
 Prom - ised in their faith - ful word. Now He shines, the long - ex -  
 And ex - tol our God and King. Let no tongue on earth be  
 And un - end - ing prais - es be, Hon - or, glo - ry, and do -



have been, And that fu - ture years shall see  
 deem - er, First re - vealed His sa - cred face  
 pect - ed; Let cre - a - tion praise its Lord  
 si - lent, Ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring  
 min - ion, And e - ter - nal vic - to - ry



Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 Ev - er - more and ev - er - more. A - men.

Text: Aurelius Prudentius Clemens, 348–c. 413; (sts. 1–4): tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.; (st. 5): tr. Henry W. Baker, 1821–77

Tune: Plainsong, 13th cent., mode V

Text and tune: Public domain

## **THE INVOCATION**

*We invoke ("call upon") the name of the one true God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
(TLH, p. 5)*

**P** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** **Amen.**

## **THE CONFESSION OF SINS**

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

**P** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God, our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

**P** Our help is in the name of the Lord.

**C** **Who made heaven and earth.**

**P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord.

**C** **And You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

**P** Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**C** **O most merciful God, who has given Your only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**P** Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in His name He gives power to become the sons of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

**C** **Amen.**

## **THE GLORIA PATRI**

*Latin for "Glory to the Father" (TLH, p. 6)*

- C**     **♪** *Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now,  
and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.*

## **THE KYRIE**

*Latin for "O Lord." We approach our Lord with a cry for help in all the needs of our earthly life. (TLH, p. 7)*

- ♪** *Lord, have mercy upon us.  
Christ, have mercy upon us.  
Lord, have mercy upon us.*

## **THE GLORIA IN EXCELSIS**

*In Latin "Gloria in excelsis Deo" means "Glory to God in the highest." We rejoice in our Lord who came to earth to bring us His peace. (TLH, p. 7)*

- ♪** *Glory be to God on High, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men.  
We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee.  
we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.  
O Lord God, heav'nly King, God the Father Almighty.  
O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ;  
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.  
Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our prayer.  
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us.  
For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord.  
Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost,  
art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.*

## **THE SALUTATION** *(Greeting)*

- P** The Lord be with you.  
**C** And with your spirit.

**P** We pray:

## **THE COLLECT FOR THE DAY**

Almighty God, in mercy You sent Your one and only Son to take upon Himself our human nature. By His gracious coming deliver us from the corruption of our sin and transform us into the likeness 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.

## **SCRIPTURE READINGS**

*God speaks to us.*

**Old Testament Reading** Isaiah 45:20-25 **(NKJV)**  
*<sup>20</sup> "Assemble yourselves and come; Draw near together, You who have escaped from the nations. They have no knowledge, Who carry the wood of their carved image, And pray to a god that cannot save. <sup>21</sup> Tell and bring forth your case; Yes, let them take counsel together. Who has declared this from ancient time? Who has told it from that time? Have not I, the LORD? And there is no other God besides Me, A just God and a Savior; There is none besides Me. <sup>22</sup> "Look to Me, and be saved, All you ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other. <sup>23</sup> I have sworn by Myself; The word has gone out of My mouth in righteousness, And shall not return, That to Me every knee shall bow, Every tongue shall take an oath. <sup>24</sup> He shall say, 'Surely in the LORD I have righteousness and strength. To Him men shall come, And all shall be ashamed Who are incensed against Him. <sup>25</sup> In the LORD all the descendants of Israel Shall be justified, and shall glory.' "*

## **THE GRADUAL**

*When God speaks to us in His Word it is natural for us to respond. We sing "Hallelujah!"—meaning "Praise the Lord!"*

**P** Blessed are they that hear the word of God and keep it. Hallelujah!

**C** Hallelujah!

**P** The Epistle reading is from Colossians 3:12-17

**C** Glory be to You, O Lord!

## Epistle Reading Colossians 3:12-17

(NKJV)

<sup>25</sup> *"Most assuredly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear will live. <sup>26</sup> "For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself, <sup>27</sup> "and has given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of Man. <sup>28</sup> "Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice <sup>29</sup> "and come forth -- those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.*

**P** Here ends our Epistle reading.

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

### THE APOSTLES' CREED

*We boldly confess what we believe. (TLH, p. 12)*

**C** I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord;

Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, 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 sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;

From thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost;

The Holy Christian Church, the communion of saints;

The forgiveness of sins; The resurrection of the body;

And the life everlasting. Amen . \_

## Hymn of the Day: 352 Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord

LSB 352



1 Let the earth now praise the Lord, Who has tru - ly  
2 What the Fa - thers most de - sired, What the proph - ets'  
3 A - bram's prom - ised great re - ward, Zi - on's help - er,  
4 As Your com - ing was in peace, Qui - et, full of



kept His word And at last to us did send  
heart in - spired, What they longed for man - y a year,  
Ja - cob's Lord— Him of two - fold race be - hold—  
gen - tle - ness, Let the same mind dwell in me



Christ, the sin - ner's help and friend.  
Stands ful - filled in glo - ry here.  
Tru - ly came, as long fore - told.  
Which is Yours e - ter - nal - ly.

5 Bruise for me the serpent's head  
That, set free from doubt and dread,  
I may cling to You in faith,  
Safely kept through life and death.

6 Then when You will come again  
As the glorious king to reign,  
I with joy will see Your face,  
Freely ransomed by Your grace.

Text: Heinrich Held, 1620–59; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.  
Tune: Geystliche gesangk Buchleyn, 1524, Wittenberg, ed. Johann Walter  
Text and tune: Public domain

## **THE SERMON**

**Luke 2:22-35**

***22 Now when the days of her purification according to the law of Moses were completed, they brought Him to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord <sup>23</sup> (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every male who opens the womb shall be called holy to the LORD"), <sup>24</sup> and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the law of the Lord, "A pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons." <sup>25</sup> And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon, and this man was just and devout, waiting for the Consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. <sup>26</sup> And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. <sup>27</sup> So he came by the Spirit into the temple. And when the parents brought in the Child Jesus, to do for Him according to the custom of the law, <sup>28</sup> he took Him up in his arms and blessed God and said: <sup>29</sup> "Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, According to Your word; <sup>30</sup> For my eyes have seen Your salvation <sup>31</sup> Which You have prepared before the face of all peoples, <sup>32</sup> A light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, And the glory of Your people Israel." <sup>33</sup> And Joseph and His mother marveled at those things which were spoken of Him. <sup>34</sup> Then Simeon blessed them, and said to Mary His mother, "Behold, this Child is destined for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign which will be spoken against <sup>35</sup> "(yes, a sword will pierce through your own soul also), that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed."***


### **Sermon Theme: Prepared to Depart this Life in Peace**

1. Through the fulfillment of the Messianic prophecies
2. Through the gift of faith to behold and trust in Jesus for salvation.



## THE OFFERTORY

(TLH, p. 12-13)

 **Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
And renew a right spirit within me.  
Cast me not away from Your presence,  
Take not Your Holy Spirit from me.  
Restore to me the joy of Your salvation.  
Uphold with Your Spirit free.**

## THE OFFERING OF THANKFUL HEARTS

*In tangible evidence of our gratitude, we offer the Lord the gift of our money, remembering that He has first given to us that we might have to give to Him.*

**(† If you have an offering to give today, please place it in the plate in the church entryway. †)**

### Sermon Hymn: 389 Let All Together Praise Our God

LSB 389



1 Let all to - geth - er praise our God Be - fore His  
2 He leaves His heav'n - ly Fa - ther's throne, Is born an  
3 With - in an earth - born form He hides His all - cre -  
4 He un - der - takes a great ex - change, Puts on our



glo - rious throne; To - day He o - pens heav'n a - gain To  
in - fant small, And in a man - ger, poor and lone, Lies  
at - ing light; To serve us all He hum - bly cloaks The  
hu - man frame, And in re - turn gives us His realm, His



give us His own Son, To give us His own Son.  
in a hum - ble stall, Lies in a hum - ble stall.  
splen - dor of His might, The splen - dor of His might.  
glo - ry, and His name, His glo - ry, and His name.

5 He is a servant, I a lord:  
How great a mystery!  
How strong the tender Christ Child's love!  
No truer friend than He,  
No truer friend than He.

Text (sts. 1, 3–7): tr. F. Samuel Janzow, 1913–2001; (st. 2): tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.

Text and tune: Nicolaus Herman, c. 1480–1561

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Text (st. 2) and tune: Public domain

## **THE GENERAL PRAYER / THE LORD'S PRAYER**

### **THE BENEDICTION**

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

**P** 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.

**C**  **Amen, Amen, Amen.**

## **Closing Hymn 389 Let All Together Praise Our God**

LSB

6 He is the key and He the door  
To blessed paradise;  
The angel bars the way no more.  
To God our praises rise,  
To God our praises rise.

7 Your grace in lowliness revealed,  
Lord Jesus, we adore  
And praise to God the Father yield  
And Spirit evermore;  
We praise You evermore.

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## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Today               **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 Cards and Gifts** Barb and Pastor Mark wish to thank all those who remembered them this Christmas with cards and gifts. It is much appreciated.

**New Year's Day Worship Service** will be conducted at 10:00 a.m. Join us as we look to the Scriptures for God to give us guidance in the New Year, as well as seek His blessings for yet another year.

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

**Installation of Church Officers** will be conducted next Sunday during the worship service.

**SSLS** will continue to be on their Christmas break until January 3, 2025.

**Contribution Envelopes** If you haven't already picked up your contribution envelopes for 2025, they can be found in your box.

**CLC Call News** Pastor George Dummann of Salem Lutheran Church, Eagle Lake, MN has received the call to Faith Lutheran Church, Manchester, MO.