

St. Stephen Lutheran Church

7800 Erie Street

Sylvania, OH 43560

www.ststephenlutheran.church

419-885-1551

December 14, 2025 10:30 A.M.

Third Sunday of Advent

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Stand

Confession and Forgiveness

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
whose home is heaven and earth,
whose salvation is sure.

C Amen

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Long-expected God,

**C we confess that we look to ourselves
for the peace and security only you can provide.
We reach for swords and spears,
reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war.
We become impatient while waiting
and weary of keeping awake.
Free us from self-reliance,
and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors.
Increase our trust in God's timing,
and awaken us to your advent among us,
that we may abound in the hope you have promised.
Amen.**

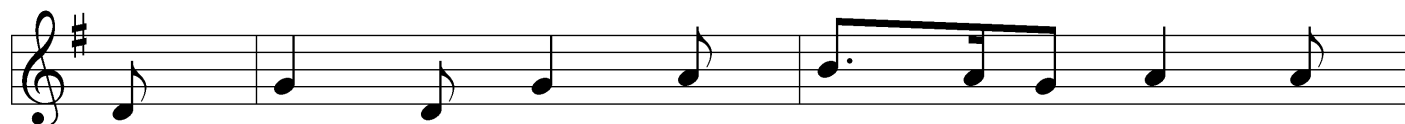
P God judges us not as we deserve,
but according to God's own righteousness
† You are freed and forgiven,
saved by grace,
and ready to welcome the Savior.

C Amen.

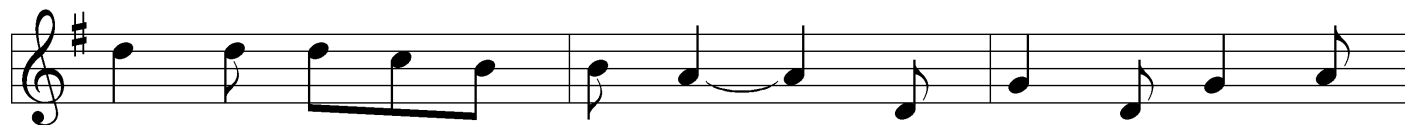
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Opening Hymn

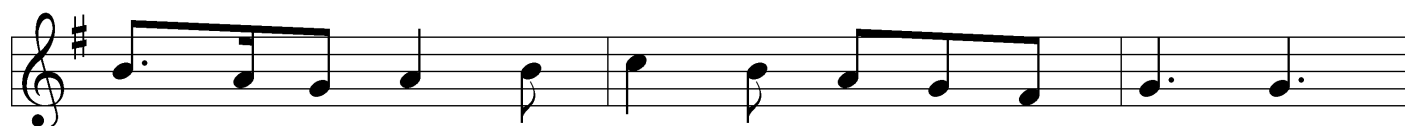
“Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Moon” ELW 242



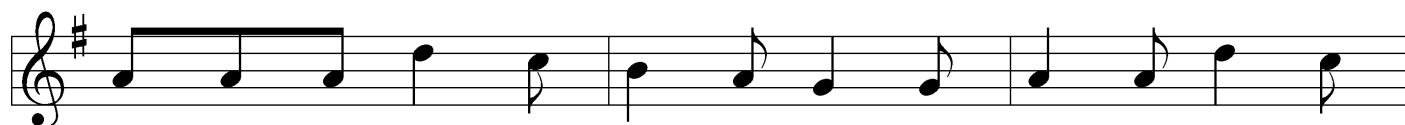
1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for
2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -
3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when
4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, though



an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing. Sing out your joy, for
man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, his hum - ble song is
all the world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so
dark the win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall



soon he is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing.
qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing;
qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing.
crown you with light, be strong and lov - ing and fear - less.



Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to -
mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing -
Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in
Love be our song and love our prayer and love our end - less



geth - er, he o - pens wide the heav'n - ly door and
kind - ness, the thun - der of his an - thems roll to
won - der, the weak be raised a - bove the strong, and
sto - ry; may God fill ev - 'ry day we share and



lives now in - side us for - ev - er.
shat - ter all ha - tred and blind - ness.
weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.
bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: REJOICE, REJOICE, Marty Haugen, b. 1950

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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.

LIGHTING PRAYER

Blessed are you, God of might and majesty, for you promise to make the desert rejoice and blossom, to watch over the strangers, and to set the prisoners free.

As we light these candles, satisfy our hunger with your good gifts, open our eyes to the great things you have done for us, and fill us with patience until the coming of the Lord Jesus.

O ransomed people of the Lord, come, let us travel on God's holy way and enter into Zion with singing. Amen.

LIGHT ONE CANDLE



- 1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.
He shall feed the flock like a shep-herd, gent - ly lead them home-ward.
Lift your heads and lift high the gate-way for the King of glo - ry.

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954

Music: TIF IN VELDELE, Yiddish folk tune

Text © 1984 Fortress Press, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

FIRST READING: Isaiah 35:1-10

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A The Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING: Psalm 146:5:10

- ⁵ Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help,
whose hope is in the LORD their God;
⁶ **who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them;
who keeps promises forever;**
⁷ who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who
hunger. The LORD sets the captive free.
⁸ **The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those
who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.**
⁹ The LORD cares for the stranger; the LORD sustains the orphan and
widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.
¹⁰ **The LORD shall reign forever,
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!**

THE HOLY GOSPEL

According to Matthew 11:2-11

p. 792

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

the gospel is read

P The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sit

SERMON

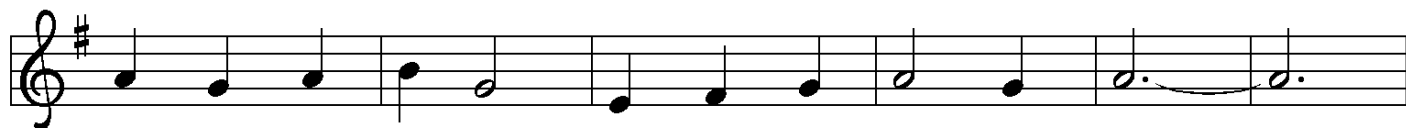
Stand



1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for
 2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for
 3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for
 4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for
 5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



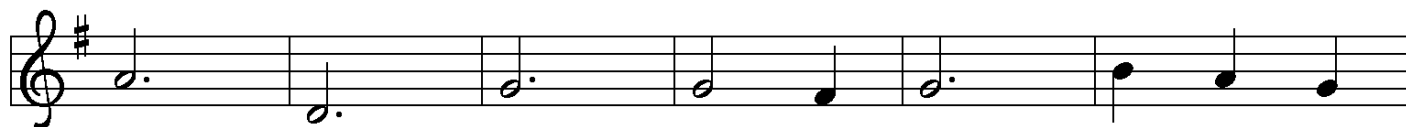
truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
 hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone
 wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,
 warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
 hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
 has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
 bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.
 shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
 to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.



Refrain
 Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957

Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell

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APOSTLE'S CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again 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 ✝

Sit

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Pastor concludes each petition with: "God of grace,"

C ***"Hear our prayer."***

Pastor concludes with:

P Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in
your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.

C ***Amen.***

Sharing of the Peace

If you are in our sanctuary please wave or give a peace sign to those around you. If you are worshipping online, please type a greeting of peace to others.

Stand

If you wish to contribute to St. Stephen's ministry you can give electronically with the QR code on the blue folder in each aisle, place offerings in the offering box in the Narthex or mail your offerings to 7800 Erie St., Sylvania, OH 43560.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

OFFERING PRAYER

Nourishing God,
you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert.
Through this meal, satisfy our parched places,
that we may rejoice and be for the world
signs of your kingdom come.
Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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

Sit

COMMUNION:

All people who believe in Jesus Christ are welcome to come and receive Christ's body and blood. Regardless of your church background or affiliation, you are welcome to come forward. We will begin with those seated on the pulpit side of the congregation then those seated on the keyboard side then those that are in the back section. You may come down the center aisle to receive the bread. Choose an individual cup (red is wine, white is grape juice) to receive and place your empty glass in the bowl as you return to your seat using the side aisles. Gluten free wafers are available upon request.

If you do not wish to receive communion, but wish to receive a blessing, please come forward and keep your hands at your sides.

Communion Hymn

"Infant Holy Infant Lowly" ELW 276



1 In - fant ho - ly, in - fant low - ly, for his bed a cat - tle stall;
2 Flocks were sleep - ing, shep - herds keep - ing vig - il till the morn - ing new



ox - en low - ing, lit - tle know - ing Christ the child is Lord of all.
saw the glo - ry, heard the sto - ry, tid - ings of a gos - pel true.



Swift - ly wing - ing, an - gels sing - ing, bells are ring - ing, tid - ings bring - ing:
Thus re - joic - ing, free from sor - row, prais - es voic - ing, greet the mor - row:



Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!
Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

Text: Polish carol; tr. Edith M. G. Reed, 1885–1933, alt.
Music: W ZŁOBIE LEŻY, Polish carol

Stand

Sending Forth

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ bless you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

Prayer

God our host,
at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness.
Send us forth, eager to share the feast,
welcome the stranger,
and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus.
Amen.

Benediction

P May God who comes among us,
Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit,
grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness,
and good news to share today and always.

C **Amen.**

Closing Song

“Lift the Savior Up”

Lift the Savior up
He's worthy
Lift the Savior up
He's worthy to be praised
Lift the Savior up
He's worthy
Jesus is worthy to be praised

Lift the Savior up
He's worthy
Lift the Savior up
He's worthy to be praised
Lift the Savior up
He's worthy
Jesus is worthy to be praised

O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him
Christ the Lord

Lift the Savior up
He's worthy
Lift the Savior up
He's worthy to be praised
Lift the Savior up
He's worthy

Jesus is worthy
Yes He's worthy

Jesus is worthy to be praised

“Lift the Savior Up” Words and Music: O'landa Draper © 1991 Wordspring Music, LLC (Admin. by Word Music Group, Inc.)
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DEPARTURE BID

A Go in peace. Keep awake.
C **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

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