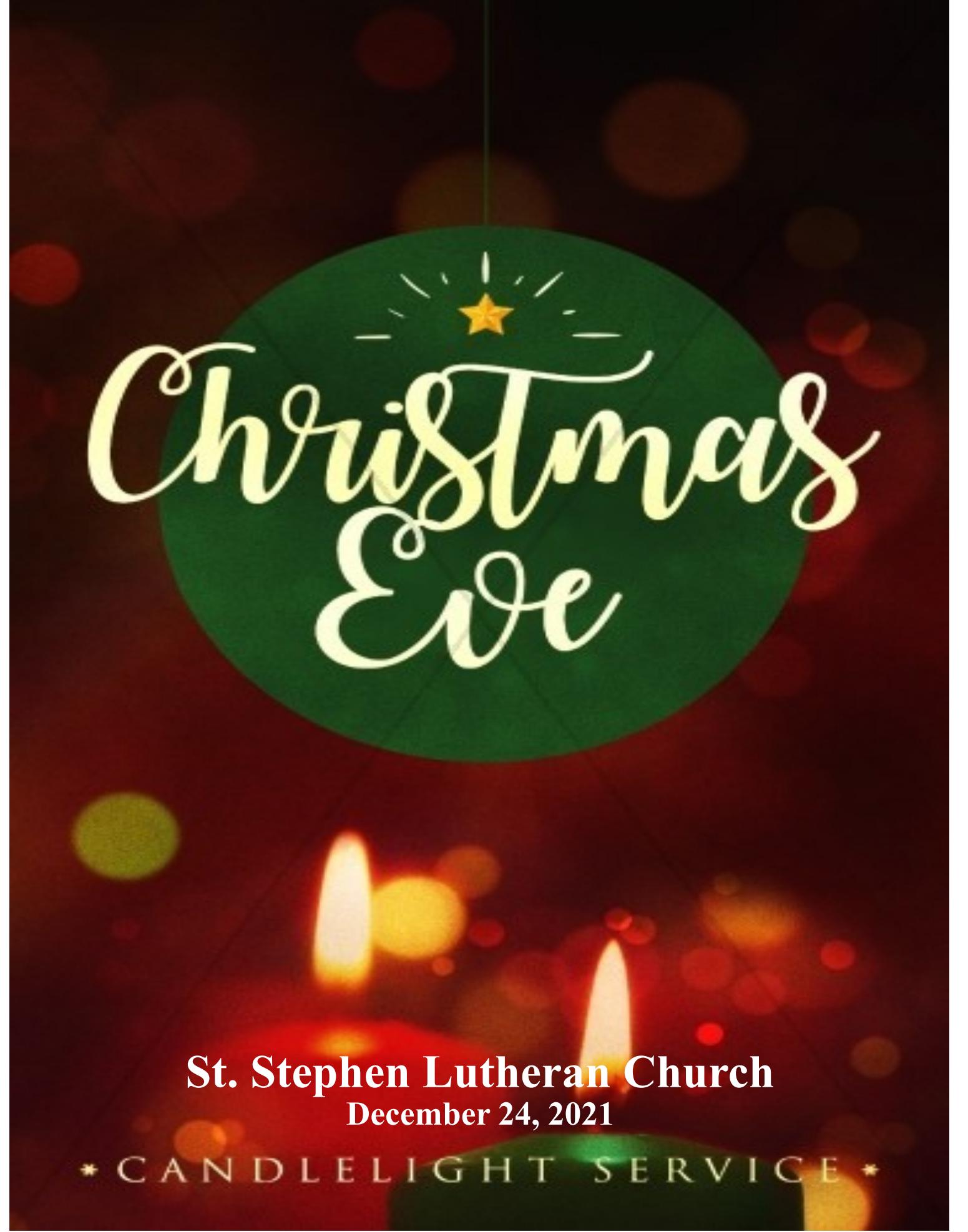




Christmas Eve



St. Stephen Lutheran Church
December 24, 2021

* C A N D L E L I G H T S E R V I C E *

CHRISTMAS EVE

4:00 & 7:00 PM

Prelude

WELCOME

Stand

Opening Hymn

Christmas Carol booklet page 9 "It Came Upon A Midnight Clear"

P Jesus Christ is the Light of the world!

C **He is the Light no darkness can overcome.**

P At darkest night, we gather to celebrate the great light of our salvation.

C **With the heavenly host we sing, "Glory to God in the highest heaven."**

P In Christ, God's Word is made flesh and lives among us.

C **With the shepherds, we will tell of the wonders we have seen and heard.**

FIRST READING: Isaiah 9:2-7

p 555

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

Gospel Acclamation

Christmas Carol booklet page 9 vs 1 "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

Gospel for the Day: Luke 2:1-20

p. 832

Christmas Carol booklet page 9 vs 3 "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

Sit

SERMON

Christmas Carol booklet page 18

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

Sit

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH.

Pastor concludes each petition with:

“Hear us, O God.”

Congregation responds: “Your mercy is great.”

Pastor concludes with:

Into your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through Christ, our Lord.

Congregation responds: “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.

Sit

Words of Institution

OUR FATHER

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 as their Lord and Savior 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 use the receptacle to dispose of your cup as you return to your seat using the side aisles. Gluten free wafers are available upon request.

Communion Hymns

Christmas Carol booklet page 6

“Away In A Manager”

Humbly to the earth You came
Born into this world to say
God with us Emmanuel
Now we adore Your Name

Your Name is a strong and mighty tower
Your Name is a shelter like no other
Your Name let the nations sing it louder
For nothing has the power to save
(But Your Name)

Jesus in Your Name we pray
Come and fill our hearts today
Lord give us strength to live for You
And glorify Your Name

Your Name is a strong and mighty tower
Your Name is a shelter like no other
Your Name let the nations sing it louder
For nothing has the power to save
(But Your Name)

(Interlude)

Wonderful Counselor Prince of Peace

Your Name is a strong and mighty ower
Your Name is a shelter like no other
Your Name let the nations sing it louder
For nothing has the power to save
(But Your Name)

Your Name is a strong and mighty tower
Your Name is a shelter like no other
Your Name let the nations sing it louder
For nothing has the power to save
(But Your Name)

God with us Emmanuel
God with us Emmanuel
God with us Emmanuel
Now we adore Your Name

Stand

BLESSING

- P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
C **Amen**

SHARING THE LIGHT

Candles are lit. Please keep lit candles upright and tip unlit candle into the flame.

"Silent Night, Holy Night"

Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright

Round yon virgin mother and child.

Holy Infant, so tender and mild,

Sleep in heavenly peace,

Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;

Glories stream from heaven afar,

Heav'ly hosts sing, Alleluia!

Christ, the Savior, is born!

Christ, the Savior, is born!

Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light

Radiant beams from your holy face,

With the dawn of redeeming grace,

Jesus, Lord, at your birth,

Jesus, Lord, at your birth!!

BENEDICTION

- P May the Word that Mary brought to birth
carry you into new and abundant life.

C **Amen.**

- P May the Word that Joseph cradled in his arms
enfold you with love and strength.

C **Amen.**

- P May the Word that angels proclaimed in song
bring harmony to our world.

C **Amen.**

- P And the blessing of almighty God,
the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always.

C **Amen.**

Candles are extinguished.

Closing Hymn

Christmas Carol booklet page 19

"Joy to the World"

- A Glory to God in the highest
- C Peace to God's people on earth!**
- A Go in peace! Share the gift of Jesus.
- C Thanks be to God!**

Postlude

*Candles may be left in the basket outside the sanctuary doors.
Please return Christmas Carol booklets in the green basket by the door.*

Musicians will play as we disburse and head out into the mission field.

SERVING TONIGHT
Pastor Beth Ferne Johnson
Scott Ballard, Director of Music

MUSIC REPRINTED UNDER THE FOLLOWING LICENSES, OR AS LISTED: 1993 GIA Publications, Inc.; Augsburg Fortress License #769-L
Hope Publishing Co. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-702495.; CCLI License #450446; LicensSing #601168

† Liturgy components reprinted under the following or as listed
Lutheran Book of Worship and Sundays and Seasons: Augsburg Fortress License #44951
Words for Worship, copyright 2004 Augsburg Fortress.
Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress.

Friday, December 24, 2021
Christmas Eve

Salvation to All

“Good news” is a familiar phrase for Christians, but in the world outside the bible the Greek word we translate as “bringing . . . good news” (Luke 2:10) was used to announce a new emperor. The Emperor Augustus commands that the world be counted, and those with the least are required to do the most to fulfill the requirements of those in power. The scene at the manger, however, is anything but imperial. In Bethlehem, God’s power is revealed in weakness, and the people who count include even the migrant laborers keeping watch over their flocks by night.

What does it mean this Christmas for us to hear that God is found in the hidden, the neglected, the immodest places of the world? What does it mean for us this year to know that when God takes a census, all the people of the world matter as much as any citizen of any empire?

The Nativity of Our Lord is the story of God’s reign spilling over the boundaries set by the powerful people of the world and into the margins. Dark nights and fragile infants interrupted by migrant laborers and choirs of angels point to a vision of the world as it should be, where “being connected” to the right people is replaced by being interconnected through a spirit of unity that brings us all out of the margins and into the center of life. In the infant Jesus, God declares a new standard for power, a word of hope, “good news” for all who are fragile, all who are weak, all who are overlooked, all who are despised, all who are abandoned, all who are homeless, all who are hovering between life and death. The festival of the incarnation is indeed “salvation to all” (Titus 2:11).