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St. Stephen's Lutheran Church  
Worship Service with Holy Communion  
Sunday, November 29, 2020 ■ 9:30 a.m.

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church  
First Sunday of Advent  
Worship Service with Holy Communion

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WE PREPARE TO WORSHIP

Prelude

Reflection on "The King Shall Come"

Bryon Dockter

Welcome

Singing Bowl

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

\* **Confession and Forgiveness**

*All may make the sign of the cross,  
the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,  
whose forgiveness is sure  
and whose steadfast love endures forever.

**Amen.**

Together let us honestly and humbly confess  
that we have not lived as God desires.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Loving and forgiving God,  
**we confess that we are held captive by sin.  
In spite of our best efforts, we have gone astray.  
We have not welcomed the stranger;  
we have not loved our neighbor;  
we have not been Christ to one another.**

**Restore us, O God.**

**Wake us up and turn us from our sin.  
Renew us each day in the light of Christ.**

**Amen.**

People of God, hear this glad news:  
by God's endless grace  
your sins are forgiven, and you are free—  
free from all that holds you back  
and free to live in the peaceable realm of God.  
May you be strengthened in God's love,  
† comforted by Christ's peace,  
and accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## WE GIVE OUR PRAISE

### \* Hymn

### “The King Shall Come”

ELW #260 vs. 1, 3, 5

The King shall come when morning dawns  
and light triumphant breaks,  
when beauty gilds the eastern hills  
and life to joy awakes.

Oh, brighter than the rising morn  
when Christ, victorious, rose  
and left the lonesome place of death,  
despite the rage of foes.

The King shall come when morning dawns  
and light and beauty brings.  
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your people pray:  
come quickly, King of kings.

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### \* Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit is with you all.  
And also with you.

### \* Kyrie

### “My Lord, What a Morning”

ELW #438

#### *Refrain*

My Lord, what a morning;  
my Lord, what a morning;  
oh, my Lord, what a morning,  
when the stars begin to fall.

You will hear the trumpet sound,  
to wake the nations underground,  
looking to my God's right hand,  
when the stars begin to fall. *Refrain*

You will hear the sinner cry,  
to wake the nations underground,  
looking to my God's right hand,  
when the stars begin to fall. *Refrain*

You will hear the Christian shout,  
to wake the nations underground,  
looking to my God's right hand,  
when the stars begin to fall. *Refrain*

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### \* Children's Sermon

Tracy Westman

### \* Lighting of the Advent Wreath

We praise you, O God, for this evergreen crown  
that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent.  
As we light the first candle on this wreath,  
rouse us from sleep, that we may be ready to greet our Lord  
when he comes with all the saints and angels.  
Enlighten us with your grace,

and prepare our hearts to welcome him with joy.  
Grant this through Christ our Lord,  
whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.  
**Amen.**

*Light the first candle.*

**\* Prayer of the Day**

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come.  
**By your merciful protection  
awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins,  
and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day,  
for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**WE HEAR GOD'S WORD**

**First Reading**

**1 Corinthians 1:3-9**

3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 4 I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, 5 for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— 6 just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— 7 so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. 8 He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Word of God, Word of Life.

*Thanks be to God*

**Psalm**

**Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19**

1 Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,  
you who lead Joseph like a flock!  
You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth  
2 before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh.  
Stir up your might,  
and come to save us!  
3 Restore us, O God;  
let your face shine, that we may be saved.  
4 O LORD God of hosts,  
how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?  
5 You have fed them with the bread of tears,  
and given them tears to drink in full measure.  
6 You make us the scorn of our neighbors;  
our enemies laugh among themselves.  
7 Restore us, O God of hosts;  
let your face shine, that we may be saved.  
17 But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,  
the one whom you made strong for yourself.  
18 Then we will never turn back from you;  
give us life, and we will call on your name.  
19 Restore us, O LORD God of hosts;  
let your face shine, that we may be saved.

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark,  
**Glory to you, O Lord**

**\* Gospel**

**Mark 13:24-37**

*Jesus said ...* 24 "But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, 25 and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. 26 Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. 27 Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. 28 "From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. 29 So also, when you see these things taking place,

you know that he is near, at the very gates. 30 Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. 31 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. 32 "But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. 33 Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. 34 It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. 35 Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, 36 or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. 37 And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

The Gospel of the Lord,  
Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor John

## WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn

"Lost in the Night"

ELW #243 vs. 1, 2

Lost in the night do the people yet languish,  
longing for morning the darkness to vanquish,  
plaintively sighing with hearts full of anguish.  
Will not day come soon? Will not day come soon?

Must we be vainly awaiting the morrow?  
Shall those who have light no light let us borrow,  
giving no heed to our burden of sorrow?  
Will you help us soon? Will you help us soon?

Text: Nordic hymn; tr. Olav Lee, 1859-1943, alt.  
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### \* Prayers of Intercession

*Petition response* Leader: ... Lord, in your mercy,

"Come Now, O Prince of Peace"

ELW #247 vs 1

Come now, O Prince of peace, make us one body.  
Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile your people.

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### \* Sharing the Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you. **And also with you.**  
*We invite you to share the peace with those with you  
and with us with "thumbs up" or comments on our Facebook page.  
Text someone you care about.*

**Offering** [Invitation to support ongoing ministries of St. Stephen's]

### \* 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.

### \* Invitation to Communion

Even as we watch and wait, Christ is here.  
Come, eat and drink.

*The body of Christ, given for you  
The blood of Christ, shed for you.  
Amen.*

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

ELW #257 vs. 1, 2

O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here  
until the Son of God appear.

*Refrain*

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to you, O Israel.

O come, O Wisdom from on high,  
embracing all things far and nigh:  
in strength and beauty come and stay;  
teach us your will and guide our way. *Refrain*

Text: *Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. composite  
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The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ  
Strengthens you and keeps you in his grace  
Today, tomorrow and forever. Amen.

**\* Prayer after Communion**

Gracious and abundant God,  
You have done great things for us, and we rejoice.  
In this bread and cup you give us life forever.  
In your boundless mercy, strengthen us  
and open our hearts to the world’s needs,  
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.  
Amen.

**WE GO INTO THE WORLD**

**\* Blessing**

The Creator of the stars bless your Advent waiting,  
the long-expected Savior fill you with love,  
the unexpected Spirit guide your journey,  
‡ now and forever.  
Amen.

**Hymn**

“Prepare the Royal Highway”

ELW #264 vs. 1, 2

Prepare the royal highway;  
the King of kings is near!  
Let ev’ry hill and valley  
a level road appear!  
Then greet the King of glory,  
foretold in sacred story:

*Refrain*

Hosanna to the Lord,  
for he fulfills God's word!

God's people, see him coming:  
your own eternal king!  
Palm branches strew before him!  
Spread garments! Shout and sing!  
God's promise will not fail you!  
No more shall doubt assail you! *Refrain*

\* **Dismissal**

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

\* **Postlude**

**Celebration on “Prepare the Royal Highway”**

**Bryon Dockter**



## Jesus said ...

*"My Father's House shall be a house of prayer."*

Please include the following people in your prayers this week: **Dorrie, Helen, Steve, Jerry, Delores, Diane, Sarah, Hedy.**

*Each week* different families will be included in special prayers. Please hold in your prayers: **Vicki, Justin, Janell, Logan, Kira and Mackenzie, Chuck and Sally, Roberta and Thom, Dean and Shirley.**

*Each week* different missions that St. Stephen's supports through our Sunday offerings are included in our prayers. This week we offer prayers for our brothers and sisters in Christ and the ministries of **The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)**. The ELCA's mission is "Together in Jesus Christ we are freed by grace to live faithfully, witness boldly and serve joyfully." Their vision "A world experiencing the difference God's grace and love in Christ makes for all people and creation."

*We* also offer prayers for our **brothers and sisters in Christ in the villages of Iwonde and Ihimbo, Tanzania.**

*We* pray for **residents and staff of group homes and care facilities, and all healthcare workers.**

*We* pray also for those away from home serving in the military: **Ben, Nick, Jeremy, Matthew, Zachary, Sam, Troy, Tricia, Adam, Nick, Peter D. J., Christopher, Gene, Sam, Andrew.** (Please help us keep our military member listing up to date. Thank you.)

*St. Stephen's invites you to add your prayer requests to our daily prayers. We hope that this list is placed inside everyone's Bible or devotional material. All prayer requests will be listed for three weeks. Please contact the church office if additional time is needed.*

## Leaders in Today's Service

|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| Pastor .....               | The Rev. Dr. John Snider                              |
| Lay Liturgist.....         | Debbie Pirkl  |
| Director of Worship.....   | Bryon Dockter   |
| Song Leader .....          | Philip Dahl   |
| Children's Sermon .....    | Tracy Westman   |
| Lectors .....              | Ali Schloesser, Matt Kirkwood                         |
| Audio Visual Ministry..... | Norm Goetzke, Dean Hostager, Jenny Van Pelt           |
| Prayer Chain .....         | Rachel Circle, Mary Circle, Kathy Ericson, Abby Vavra |
| Altar Guild .....          | Lori Ritt   |



## Today's Altar Flowers

*In Loving Memory of Randy Taylor  
and our Loved Ones.*

Given by: Joyce and Wayne Taylor



ST STEPHEN'S  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Senior Pastor John Snider | Associate Pastor of Discipleship Tim Thompson  
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