

*January 9, 2022*  
*Baptism of Our Lord*



**ST. STEPHEN**  
Evangelical Lutheran Church

\*Congregation is invited to stand as able  
Please be aware that video cameras are in use during our hybrid (combined) Worship Service and that images are being shared with the online participants.

Today's festival rejoices in God's blessings. We recall and celebrate our adoption as God's children, the gift of the Holy Spirit, and the promised company of almighty God when we "pass through the waters . . . the rivers . . . fire." On this day the heavens open again for this assembly, and we receive the gift of God's Beloved, Jesus, in bread and wine.

**Our Mission**

We respond to Christ's love by feeding those who hunger in body, mind, and spirit.

**Prelude**

*"Prelude and Fugue in B-Flat Major"*

attributed to J.S. Bach

**Gathering**

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

**\*Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who sends the word with angels, who is made flesh among all peoples, and who breathes peace on all the earth.

**Amen.**

In Christ, we are bold to name our sin and cry out for peace.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Holy God,

**we confess our sin before you. We replace compassion with competition. We seek what is mighty while ignoring the meek. We are quick to anger but slow to forgive. We have not put on love in harmony with you. Wrap us in the grace of your powerful Word. Swaddle our hearts with your peace, that all we do, in word or deed, may reflect your love born among us.**

**Amen.**

I bring you good news of great joy for all people:

God has come among us in the child born of Mary, Christ the Lord. ☩ In Christ your sins are forgiven and you are clothed in peace.

**Amen.**

**Gathering Hymn**

*"This is the Spirit's Entry Now"*

Hymn#448

- 1 This is the Spirit's entry now:  
the water and the word,  
the cross of Jesus on your brow,  
the seal both felt and heard.
- 2 This miracle of life reborn  
comes from the Lord of breath;  
the sinless one from life was torn;  
our life comes through his death.
- 3 Let water be the sacred sign  
that we must die each day  
to rise again by his design  
as foll'wers of his way.
- 4 Renewing Spirit, hear our praise  
for your baptismal pow'r  
that washes us through all our days.  
Come, cleanse again this hour.

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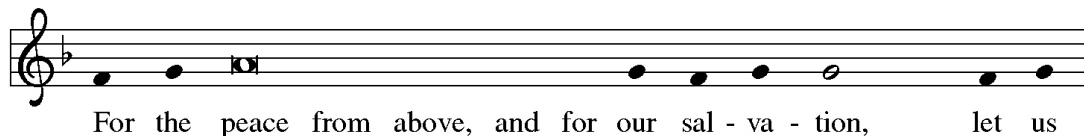
**\*Apostolic Greeting**

The boundless grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the wisdom of God, and the light of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

**\*Kyrie**



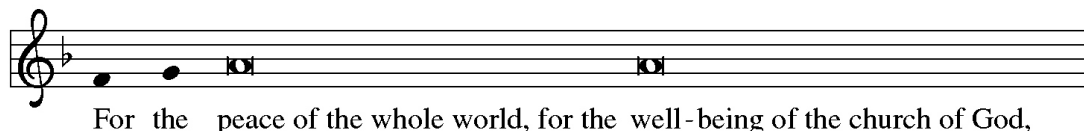
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer-cy.**



For the peace from above, and for our sal - va - tion, let us



pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,

and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.

A - men.

**\*Canticle of Praise**

*Refrain*

Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

1 Lord God, heav-en - ly King, al - might-y God and Fa - ther, we

wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

*Refrain*

Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

2 Lord Je - sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of

God, you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us; you are

seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

*Refrain*

Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

3 For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,

you a-lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly

Spir-it, in the glo-ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

*Refrain*

Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

**\*Prayer of the Day**

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you anointed Jesus at his baptism with the Holy Spirit and revealed him as your beloved Son. Keep all who are born of water and the Spirit faithful in your service, that we may rejoice to be called children of God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**Word**

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

## The First Lesson

Isaiah 43:1-7

*Near the end of Israel's exile in Babylon, God promises to bring the people home. They need no longer be afraid, because the one who formed, created, and called them by name now redeems them from all their enemies. God declares them precious and honored, and God loves them.*

A reading from the prophet Isaiah , the 43rd chapter.

<sup>1</sup>But now thus says the LORD,  
he who created you, O Jacob,  
he who formed you, O Israel:  
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;  
I have called you by name, you are mine.  
<sup>2</sup>When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;  
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;  
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,  
and the flame shall not consume you.  
<sup>3</sup>For I am the LORD your God,  
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.  
I give Egypt as your ransom,  
Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.  
<sup>4</sup>Because you are precious in my sight,  
and honored, and I love you,  
I give people in return for you,  
nations in exchange for your life.  
<sup>5</sup>Do not fear, for I am with you;  
I will bring your offspring from the east,  
and from the west I will gather you;  
<sup>6</sup>I will say to the north, "Give them up,"  
and to the south, "Do not withhold;  
bring my sons from far away  
and my daughters from the end of the earth—  
<sup>7</sup>everyone who is called by my name,  
whom I created for my glory,  
whom I formed and made."

Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm

Psalm 29

<sup>1</sup>Ascribe to the LORD, you gods,  
ascribe to the LORD glo-ry and strength.  
<sup>2</sup>**Ascribe to the LORD the glory due God's name;  
worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.**  
<sup>3</sup>The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders;  
the LORD is upon the mighty waters.  
<sup>4</sup>**The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice;  
the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.**  
<sup>5</sup>The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees;

the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;  
<sup>6</sup>the LORD makes Lebanon skip like a calf,  
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.

<sup>7</sup>The voice of the LORD  
bursts forth in lightning flashes.

<sup>8</sup>The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;  
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

<sup>9</sup>The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests bare.  
And in the temple of the LORD all are crying, "Glory!"

<sup>10</sup>The LORD sits enthroned above the flood;  
the LORD sits enthroned as king forevermore.

<sup>11</sup>O LORD, give strength to your people;  
give them, O LORD, the blessings of peace.

## The Second Lesson

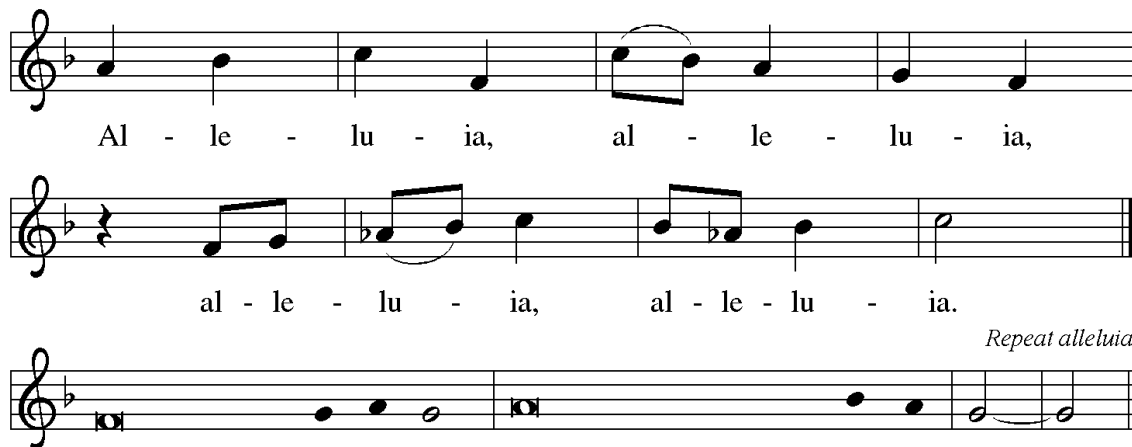
Acts 8: 14-17

*Peter and John are sent to support the new Christians in Samaria, a group that was recently baptized after hearing the good news of Christ through the preaching of Philip. Here the Samaritans receive the gift of the Holy Spirit in the laying on of hands.*

<sup>14</sup>Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. <sup>15</sup>The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit <sup>16</sup>(for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). <sup>17</sup>Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

## \*Gospel Acclamation



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,  
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.  
*Repeat alleluia*  
Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

## \*Gospel Reading

Luke 3: 15-17, 21-22

*The reading opens with questions about the identity of the Messiah. John the Baptist insists that he is not the Messiah; instead he points ahead to one who is coming. And whether the voice of God was heard by all or only by Jesus, God settles the matter: Jesus is God's beloved Son.*

A reading from the Gospel according to St. Luke, the 3rd chapter. **Glory to You O Lord.**

<sup>15</sup>As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, <sup>16</sup>John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup>His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

<sup>21</sup>Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, <sup>22</sup>and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to You O Christ.**

**Sermon**

The Rev Matthew Best

**Hymn of the Day**

*"Wade in the Water"*

Hymn#459 vs. 1-4

*[A leader sings the words in parentheses]*

Refrain

Wade in the water,  
wade in the water, children,  
wade in the water,  
God's a-goin'-a trouble the water.

1 (See that host all dressed in white,)  
God's a-goin'-a trouble the water.  
(the leader looks like the Israelite.)  
God's a-goin'-a trouble the water. *Refrain*

2 (See that band all dressed in red,)  
God's a-goin'-a trouble the water.  
(looks like the band that Moses led.)  
God's a-goin'-a trouble the water. *Refrain*

3 (Look over yonder, what do I see?)  
God's a-goin'-a trouble the water.  
(the Holy Ghost a-coming on me.)  
God's a-goin'-a trouble the water. *Refrain*

4 (If you don't believe I've been redeemed,)  
God's a-goin'-a trouble the water.  
(just follow me down to Jordan's stream.)  
God's a-goin'-a trouble the water. *Refrain*

Text: African American spiritual

### **\*Apostles Creed**

AM: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us profess our faith, using the words of the Apostles Creed.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.\*  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come 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.**

### **\*Prayers of Intercession**

*Congregational response after each petition:*

AM: ...God, of Grace **C: hear our prayer.**

The Spirit of the Lord is poured out upon us in abundance; so we are bold to pray for the church, the world, and all that God has made.

*A brief silence.*

By the Holy Spirit, you gather your church and send it out in mission to share the good news of Jesus. Inspire your faithful people to be fervent in prayer and service, that all people know they are precious in God's sight. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

You reveal your love and power through water and the Spirit. Guard rivers, seas, and all bodies of water from destruction and pollution. Secure access to clean water for all, and protect the land from drought and flood. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Establish among the nations the blessings of peace. Raise up leaders who will protect vulnerable people in their care. Strengthen advocates who risk reputation or retaliation for the sake of mercy and justice. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

You protect us through the fires and troubled waters of this life. Assure us that we will not be cut off from you by illness or despair, anxiety or pain, confusion or weakness. Comfort all who are in need. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We are joined in baptism to Christ and to one another. Bless those who are newly baptized and those who are preparing for baptism. Help us to be faithful in fellowship, worship, evangelism,



service, and justice-seeking. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

You created each of your saints for your glory. We give thanks for those you have called by name into your eternal embrace. Comfort us in grief and release us from fear. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Since we have such great hope in your promises, O God, we lift these and all of our prayers to you in confidence and faith; through Jesus Christ our Savior.  
**Amen.**

**\*Peace**

P: The Peace of Christ be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Let us show a sign of that peace!

**\*Offering**

The offering, whether in person or through digital means, is an act of worship. Worship, at its core, is a reverent love and devotion accorded to God. We give because God loves us first, and we are called to love God and neighbor as a result. The offering is one way we show our love of God.

To assist you in this act of worship, there are several ways to make your offering: Go to [www.StStephenLC.org](http://www.StStephenLC.org) and scroll to the bottom of the page, and click **DONATE**.

Text your offering dollar amount to 717-685-6947. Text "help" for options.

Use Engage from your smart phone or Internet connected device at <https://engage.suran.com/sslc/> or QR code below:



Set up regular electronic offerings by contacting Kevin, our office manager, at 717-766- 2168, Monday through Thursday from 9am – 2pm, or by email at [office@StStephenLC.org](mailto:office@StStephenLC.org) to get set up.

Mail in your check, made payable to St. Stephen Lutheran Church. Our address is  
30 W. Main St., PO Box 266, New Kingstown, PA 17072.

The offerings are used to carry out the ministry of the church, to share the Good News, to provide pastoral care, to worship as a community, and to create an environment where Jesus encounters people and their lives are transformed. All of these things continue to take place. Thank you for your generosity.

**\*Offertory Prayer**

Let us pray. Blessed are you, O God,  
Sovereign of the universe. You offer us new beginnings and guide us on our journey. Lead us  
to your table, nourish us with this heavenly food, and prepare us to carry your love to a hungry  
world, in the name of Christ our light.

**Amen.**

### **Meal**

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

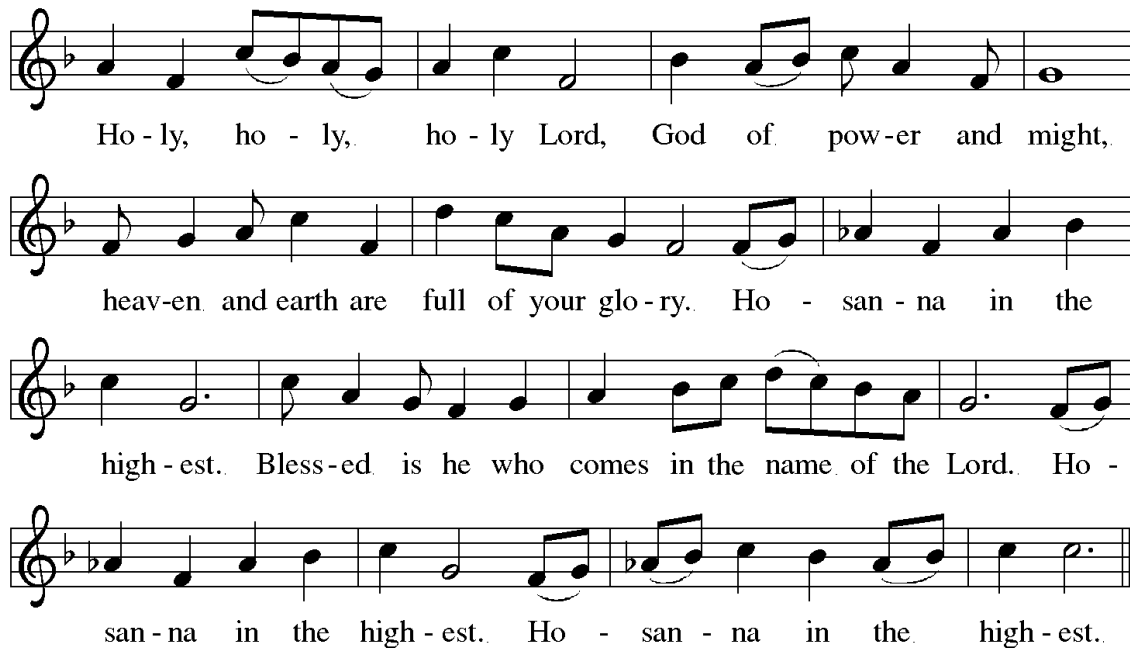
### **\*The Great Thanksgiving**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks  
and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. By the leading of  
a star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your  
beloved Son; and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory. And so, with all  
the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name  
and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,  
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the  
high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life: Blessed are you for the birth of creation.  
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light. Blessed are you for your promise to your  
people. Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams. Blessed are you for Mary's  
openness to your will. Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was handed over, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it,  
and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the

remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**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**

In Christ's manger, at Christ's table, come, see what God makes known for you

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on  
us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you  
take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

The Body and Blood of Christ given and shed for you

**\*Post Communion Prayer**

Let us pray. We thank you, wondrous God, for Jesus, God with us, in these gifts of bread and wine. As we have shared this feast of love, strengthen us to share your love with all the world. In Jesus' name we pray.

**Amen.**

**Sending**

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

**\*Blessing**

The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ Jesus, the Word made flesh.

**Amen.**

**Sending Hymn**

*“ Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized “*

Hymn#304 vs. 1,2,4

- 1 Christ, when for us you were baptized,  
God's Spirit on you came,  
as peaceful as a dove, and yet  
as urgent as a flame,  
as urgent as a flame.
- 2 God called you, "My beloved Son";  
you are God's servant true,  
sent to proclaim the reign of heav'n,  
God's holy will to do,  
God's holy will to do.
- 4 Baptize us with your Spirit, Lord;  
your cross on us be signed,  
that likewise in God's service we  
may perfect freedom find,  
may perfect freedom find.

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**\*Dismissal**

Go in peace. Rejoice in Christ our Savior.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**

*“ The Call of the Trumpets ”*

attributed to J.S. Bach