



# CHRISTMAS EVE Candlelight Service

361 O Little Town of Bethlehem

Tonight, we celebrate the baptism of Markus Scott Steger born October 3, 2024 in Portsmouth VA. to the parents of Brandon & Marina (Dean) Steger accompanied by big sister Mallory Steger.

## Holy Baptism

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

**C** Amen.

**P** Dearly beloved, Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Matthew, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” In the last chapter of Mark our Lord promises, “Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved.” And the apostle Peter has written, “Baptism now saves you.”

The Word of God also teaches that we are all conceived and born sinful and are under the power of the devil until Christ claims us as His own. We would be lost forever unless delivered from sin, death, and everlasting condemnation. But the Father of all mercy and grace has sent His Son Jesus Christ, who atoned for the sin of the whole world, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

**P** [Name], receive the sign of the holy cross both upon your ✠ forehead and upon your ✠ heart to

mark you as one redeemed by Christ the crucified.

**P** Let us pray.  
Almighty and eternal God, according to Your strict judgment You condemned the unbelieving world through the flood, yet according to Your great mercy You preserved believing Noah and his family, eight souls in all. You drowned hard-hearted Pharaoh and all his host in the Red Sea, yet led Your people Israel through the water on dry ground, foreshadowing this washing of Your Holy Baptism. Through the Baptism in the Jordan of Your beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, You sanctified and instituted all waters to be a blessed flood and a lavish washing away of sin.

We pray that You would behold [name(s)] according to Your boundless mercy and bless [him/her/them] with true faith by the Holy Spirit, that through this saving flood all sin in [him/her/them], which has been inherited from Adam and which [he himself / she herself / they themselves] [has/have] committed since, would be drowned and die. Grant that [he/she/they] be kept safe and secure in the holy ark of the Christian Church, being separated from the multitude of unbelievers and serving Your name at all times with a fervent spirit and a joyful hope, so that, with all believers in Your promise, [he/she/they] would be declared worthy of eternal life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C** **Amen**

**P** From ancient times the Church has observed the custom of appointing sponsors for baptismal candidates and catechumens. In the Evangelical Lutheran Church sponsors

are to confess the faith expressed in the Apostles' Creed and taught in the Small Catechism. They are, whenever possible, to witness the Baptism of those they sponsor. They are to pray for them, support them in their ongoing instruction and nurture in the Christian faith, and encourage them toward the faithful reception of the Lord's Supper. They are at all times to be examples to them of the holy life of faith in Christ and love for the neighbor.

**P** Is it your intention to serve [*name of candidate(s)*] as sponsors in the Christian faith?

**R** *Yes, with the help of God.*

**P** God enable you to will and to do this faithful and loving work and with His grace fulfill what we are unable to do.

**C** **Amen.**

### Lord's Prayer

**C** **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.**

**P** The Lord preserve your coming in and your going out from this time forth and even † forevermore.

**C** **Amen.**

**P** [*Name(s)*], do you renounce the devil?

**R** *Yes, I renounce him.*

**P** Do you renounce all his works?

**R** *Yes, I renounce them.*

**P** Do you renounce all his ways?

**R** *Yes, I renounce them.*

**P** Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth?

**R** *Yes, I believe.*

**P** Do you believe in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He will come to judge the living and the dead?

**R** *Yes, I believe.*

**P** Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting?

**R** *Yes, I believe.*

**P** *[Name]*, I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** **Amen.**

**P** The almighty God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given you the new birth of water and of the Spirit and has forgiven you all your sins, strengthen you with His grace to life † everlasting.

**C** **Amen.**

**P** Receive this burning light to show that you have received Christ who is the Light of the world. Live always in the light of Christ, and be ever watchful for His coming, that you may meet Him with joy and enter with Him into the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which shall have no end.

**A** In Holy Baptism God the Father has made you *[a member]* of His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, and *[an heir]* with us of all the treasures of heaven in the one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We receive you in Jesus' name as our *[brother]* in Christ, that together we might hear His Word, receive His gifts, and proclaim the praises of Him who called us out of darkness into His marvelous light.

**C** **Amen. We welcome you in the name of the Lord.**

**P** Peace † be with you.

**C** **Amen.**

## The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

### 366 It Came upon the Midnight Clear

#### Introit

*Psalm 2:1–2, 4–6; antiphon: Liturgical Text*

When all was still, and it was midnight,  
your almighty Word, O Lord, descended from the  
royal throne.

**Why do the nations rage and the peoples  
plot in vain?**

The kings of the earth set themselves, and the  
rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and  
against his anointed.

**He who sits in the heavens laughs; the  
Lord holds them in derision.**

Then he will speak to them in his wrath,  
and terrify them in his fury, saying,  
“As for me, I have set my King  
on Zion, my holy hill.”

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

### 374 Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

#### Salutation

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

## Prayer of the Day

**P** Let us pray.

O God, You make this most holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that as we have known the mysteries of that Light on earth we may also come to the fullness of His joys in heaven; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

## 387 Joy to the World

### Old Testament Reading

*Isaiah 9:2-7*

The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,  
on them has light shined.  
You have multiplied the nation;  
you have increased its joy;  
they rejoice before you as with joy at the  
harvest,  
as they are glad when they divide the spoil.  
For the yoke of his burden,  
and the staff for his shoulder,  
the rod of his oppressor,  
you have broken as on the day of Midian.  
For every boot of the tramping warrior in  
battle tumult  
and every garment rolled in blood  
will be burned as fuel for the fire.  
For to us a child is born,  
to us a son is given;  
and the government shall be upon his  
shoulder,



and his name shall be called  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
Of the increase of his government and of  
peace  
there will be no end,  
on the throne of David and over his kingdom,  
to establish it and to uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness  
from this time forth and forevermore.  
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

### 364 Away in a Manger

#### Epistle

*Titus 2:11–14*

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

### 380 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

#### Holy Gospel

*Luke 2:1–14*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

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

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

“Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace among those with  
whom he is pleased!”

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

## 367 Angels from the Realms of Glory

### Sermon

## 379 O Come, All Ye Faithful

### Offering

## 384 Of the Father's Love Begotten

### Prayer of the Church

**P** Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

For the faith to greet the news of the Word made flesh with joy and peace, for the obedience of faith to walk in the light of His ways, for the strength to be steadfast in this faith, let us pray to the Lord.

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For voices to proclaim faithfully the Word of God, for listening ears that we grow in knowledge and faith by the preaching of the Word, for those who deliver to us the Means of Grace in which we behold God's glory and receive it with joy and thanksgiving, let us pray to the Lord.

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For the Church, here and throughout the world, for every place where the Word has planted hope and displayed God's saving glory to the nations, and for the homes in which we teach this Word to our children and

live it out in holy lives, let us pray to the Lord.

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For peace in the world, for an end to violence, for the restoration of hope and for those in need, let us pray of the Lord.

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For all things needful to this body and life and for all things profitable to our salvation, let us pray in the name of Christ, the Word made flesh, in whom we behold the glory of the eternal Trinity, now and to the end of the ages.

**C Amen.**

### **The Lighting of the Candles**

**(When all the candles are lit, the congregation will rise and the Service continues)**

#### **Benediction**

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠  
give you peace.

**C Amen.**

**363 Silent Night, Holy Night**