

***“People of Christ
Making a
Difference”***

5th Sunday in Lent

March 17, 2024

8:30 & 11:00AM

WELCOME TO ST. STEPHEN'S!

A nursery is provided for children through age 4 for both worship services and for infants and toddlers during Sunday School. The nursery is located at the end of the hall on the right side.

Children's bags can be found in the "Kid's Corner" of the narthex.

Restroom facilities are located down the hall on the left side.

First Aid, Emergency Equipment, and a wheelchair are located down the hall on the right by the stairwell.

If for any reason you must leave the sanctuary, the service is live streamed in the Agape Sunday School classroom. Any usher will be glad to direct you.

Sunday school classes are provided for 18 month olds through adults.

Listening devices and larger print bulletins are located in the narthex.

Ushers are also available to assist you.

If you are a visitor feel free to sign-in using the QR code. Here's how it works: Point your camera at the image, tap the link that appears on your screen, and share whatever information you desire. Thank you! Hope to see you again soon!



GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

"Jesu, Grant Me This I Pray"

Raymond H. Haan

(We Stand)

BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

During the season of Lent we are called to return to the Lord with all our heart. Let us confess our sin and acknowledge before God and one another our need for repentance and God's mercy.

Holy God,

We confess that we have strayed from you and turned aside from your way. Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word; we take for ourselves instead of giving to others; we spoil your creation; we cause hurt; we give in to fear. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us. Create in us clean hearts for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

Hear the good news: God so loved the world that He gave his only Son, so that all may receive life. This promise is for you! God embraces you, + forgives you in Christ's name, and revives you with the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN*"My Song Is Love Unknown"*

LBW 94



1 My song is love un - known, my Sav - ior's love to me,
2 He came from his blest throne, sal - va - tion to be - stow;
3 Some - times they strew his way and his sweet prais - es sing;
4 Why, what hath my Lord done? What makes this rage and spite?



love to the love - less shown, that they might love - ly be.
but men made strange, and none the longed-for Christ would know.
re - sound - ing all the day ho - san - nas to their King.
He made the lame to run, he gave the blind their sight.



Oh, who am I, that for my sake my Lord should take frail
But, oh, my friend, my friend in - deed, who at my need his
Then "Cru - ci - fy!" is all their breath, and for his death they
Sweet in - ju - ries! Yet they at these them - selves dis - please, and



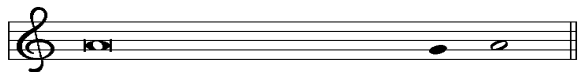
flesh and die? My Lord should take frail flesh and die?
life did spend; who at my need his life did spend!
thirst and cry, and for his death they thirst and cry.
'gainst him rise; them - selves dis - please, and 'gainst him rise.

GREETING

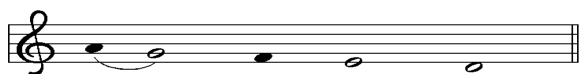
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

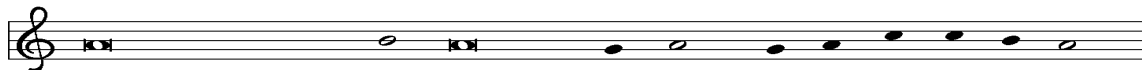
KYRIE



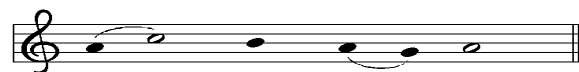
In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



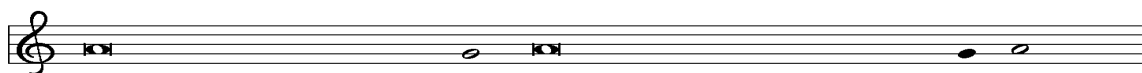
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



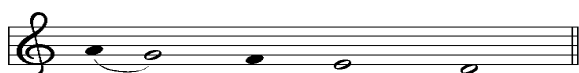
Lord, have mer - cy.



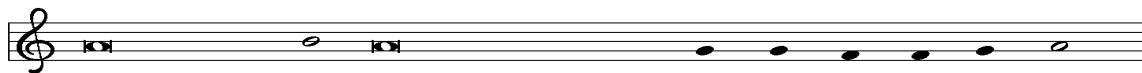
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity 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.

SALUTATION

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

(We Sit)

FIRST READING

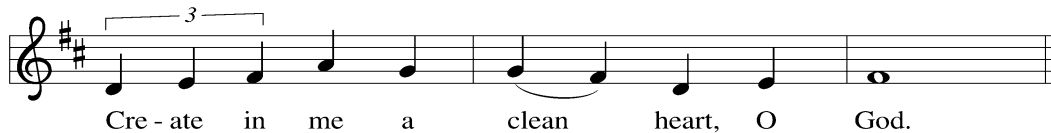
Jeremiah 31:31-34

³¹The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALMODY

Psalms 51:1-12



- ¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your | steadfast love;
in your great compassion blot out | my offenses.
- ²**Wash me through and through | from my wickedness,
and cleanse me | from my sin.**
- ³For I know | my offenses,
and my sin is ev- | er before me.
- ⁴**Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil | in your sight;
so you are justified when you speak and right | in your judgment. R**
- ⁵Indeed, I was born | steeped in wickedness,
a sinner from my | mother's womb.
- ⁶**Indeed, you delight in truth | deep within me,
and would have me know wisdom | deep within.**
- ⁷Remove my sins with hyssop, and I | shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be pur- | er than snow.
- ⁸**Let me hear | joy and gladness;
that the body you have broken | may rejoice. R**
- ⁹Hide your face | from my sins,
and blot out | all my wickedness.
- ¹⁰**Create in me a clean | heart, O God,
and renew a right spir- | it within me.**
- ¹¹Cast me not away | from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spir- | it from me.
- ¹²**Restore to me the joy of | your salvation
and sustain me with your boun- | tiful Spirit. R**

SECOND READING

Hebrews 5:5-10

⁵Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him, "You are my Son, today I have begotten you"; ⁶as he says also in another place, "You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek."

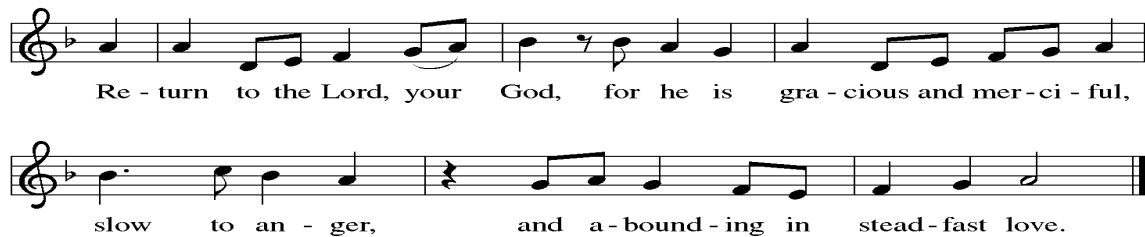
⁷In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. ⁸Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; ⁹and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, ¹⁰having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

(We Stand)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



THE HOLY GOSPEL

John 12:20-33

The holy gospel according to St. John, the 12th chapter.

Glory to you, O God.

²⁰Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. ²¹They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." ²²Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. ²³Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

²⁷"Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. ²⁸Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." ²⁹The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." ³⁰Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. ³¹Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. ³²And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." ³³He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

(We Sit)

CHILDREN'S SERMON
SERMON

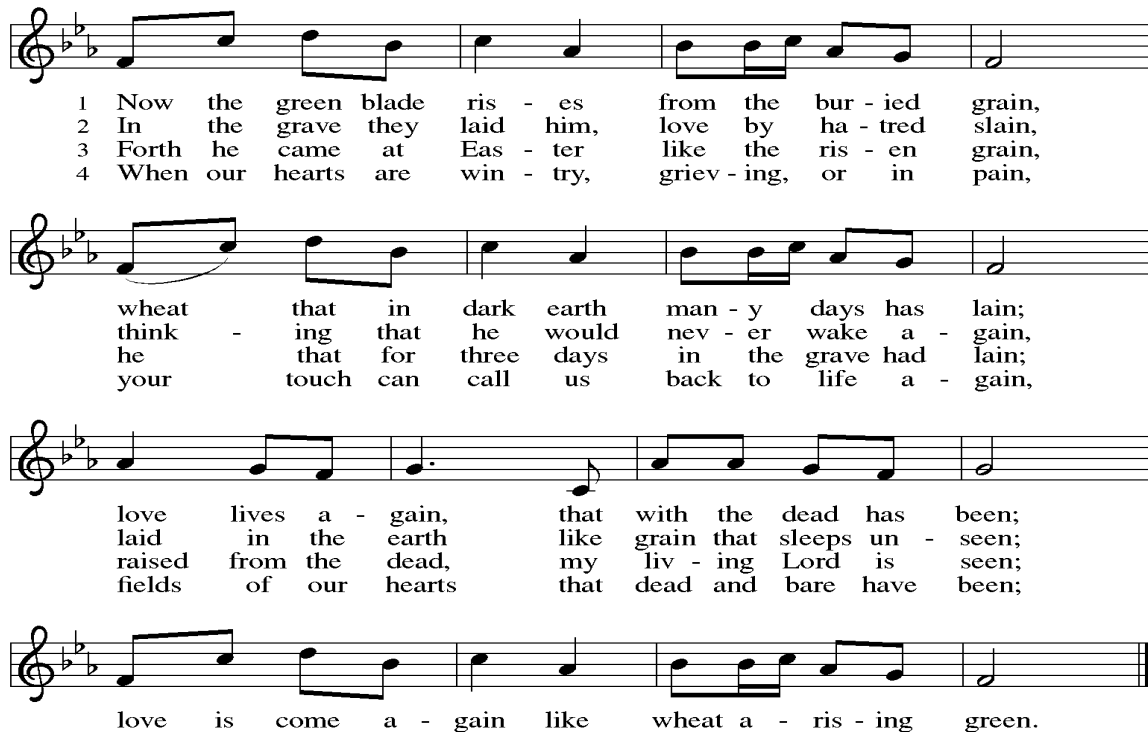
Pastor Jason
Pastor Jason

(We Stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Now the Green Blade Rises"

ELW 379



1 Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain,
2 In the grave they laid him, love by ha - tred slain,
3 Forth he came at Eas - ter like the ris - en grain,
4 When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain,

wheat that in dark earth man - y days has lain;
think - ing that he would nev - er wake a - gain,
he that for three days in the grave had lain,
your touch can call us back to life a - gain,

love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been;
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen;
raised from the dead, my liv - ing Lord is seen;
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;

love is come a - gain like wheat a - ris - ing green.

THE NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

(We Sit)

OFFERING

God calls us to be generous stewards for the sake of our ministry near and far. You can support our ministry by putting your offering in the offering plate, mailing it to the church, giving online (sslc.org or use the QR Code) or through the Givelify app. If you would like more details on direct deposit giving please contact our Parish Administrator, Mrs. Tonya Reynolds, at (803) 359-6562.



Anthem

(8:30)

"God So Loved the World"
(Adult and Handbell Choir)

Aaron David Miller

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him should not perish, but have eternal life. For God sent not his Son to the world to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved. Amen.

(11:00)

"O Divine Redeemer"

Charles Gounod

Ah! turn me not away, receive me, tho' unworthy. Hear Thou my cry, behold, Lord, my distress! Answer me from thy throne. Haste Thee, Lord, to mine aid, Thy pity show in my deep anguish! Let not the sword of vengeance smite me, tho' righteous thine anger, O Lord! Shield me in danger, O regard me! On Thee, Lord, alone will I call.

O, divine Redeemer! I pray Thee, grant me pardon, and remember not my sins! Forgive me, O, divine Redeemer! Night gathers round my soul; fearful, I cry to Thee; Come to mine aid, O Lord! Haste Thee, Lord, haste to help me! Hear my cry! Save me, Lord, in Thy mercy. Hear my cry! Come and save me, O Lord!

Save, in the day of retribution, from death shield Thou me, O my God! O, divine Redeemer, have mercy! Help me, my Savior!

(We Stand)

OFFERTORY SONG

ELW 188



THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

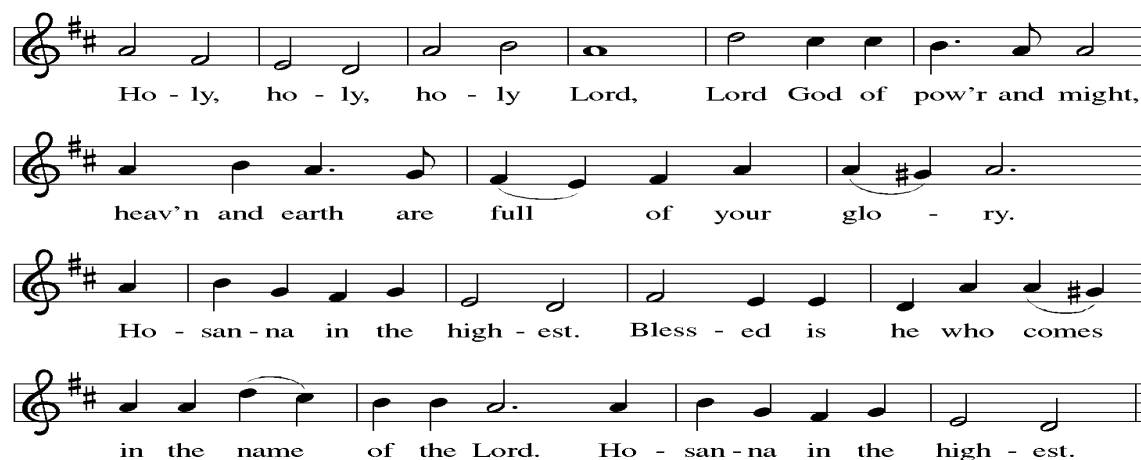
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

THE PREFACE

THE SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,

heav'n 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.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

THE 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

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

(We Sit)

THE AGNUS DEI

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, grant us peace.

RECEPTION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Christ welcomes you to this Holy Meal of the Baptized! We receive communion this morning at the center aisle. Communion will be brought to the front rows for those who wish to remain seated. Children who commune should be assisted by adults near them. Those unable to partake of wine or wheaten bread are assured of our Lord's presence in, with, and under each element alone. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.

Communion Music

(8:30) "O Divine Redeemer" Charles Gounod

(11:00) "Glory Be to Jesus" Raymond H. Haan

*The Congregation is encouraged to participate in the following Communion Hymn.
The hymn can be found in the back portion of the LBW (Green) Hymnal in your pew rack.*

Communion Hymn "My Faith Looks Up to Thee" LBW 479

(We Stand)

BLESSING OF THE COMMUNICANTS

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

BENEDICTION

God the Father, who fills the creation with abundance, + Christ the Son, who spreads his arms in forgiveness, and the Holy Spirit, who draws ever near to us, bless you and bring you to life everlasting.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

"Christ, the Life of All the Living"

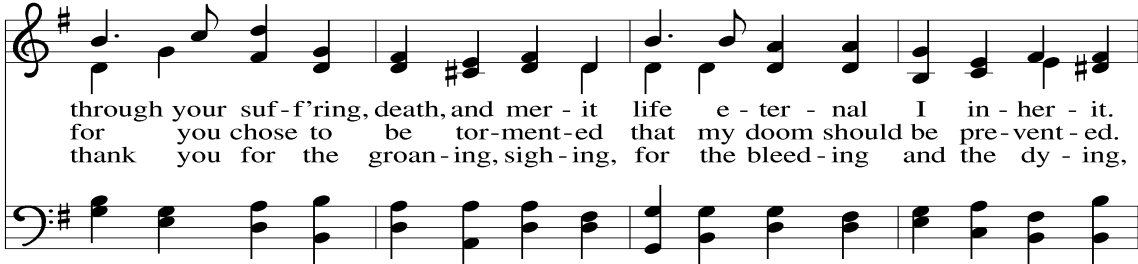
ELW 339



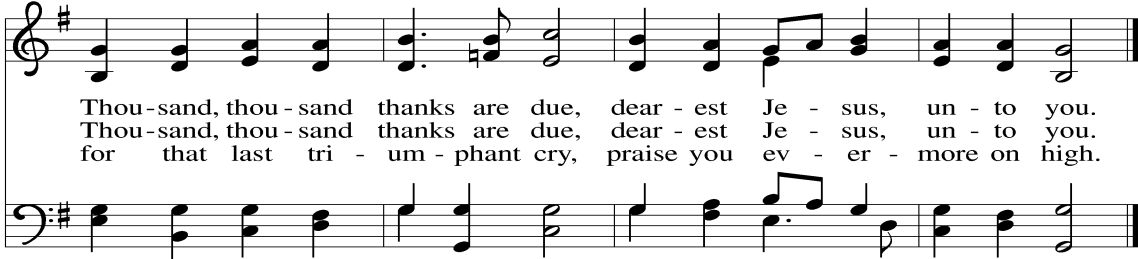
1 Christ, the life of all the liv - ing, Christ, the death of death, our foe,
 2 You have suf-fered great af - flic - tion and have borne it pa - tient - ly,
 3 Then, for all that bought my par-don, for the sor - rows deep and sore,



Christ, your-self for me once giv - ing to the dark - est depths of woe:
 e - ven death by cru - ci - fix - ion, ful - ly to a - tone for me;
 for the an - guish in the gar - den, I will thank you ev - er - more;



through your suf-f'ring, death, and mer - it life e - ter - nal I in - her - it.
 for you chose to be tor-ment-ed that my doom should be pre-vent - ed.
 thank you for the groan-ing, sigh-ing, for the bleed-ing and the dy - ing,



Thou-sand, thou - sand thanks are due, dear - est Je - sus, un - to you.
 Thou-sand, thou - sand thanks are due, dear - est Je - sus, un - to you.
 for that last tri - um - phant cry, praise you ev - er - more on high.

DISMISSAL

Marked with the cross of Christ, go forth to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

"Let Thy Blood in Mercy Poured"

Wilbur Held

THE ALTAR GREENERY is given to the glory of God, humbly requesting that He would bless Jessica, Max, and Sophie (born 2-29-24) by Bob and Pat Bank.

SERVING TODAY:

Ushers: (8:30) Eric Wessinger, Ivan Black, Pat Bowen, Bill Carroll, Aaron Rawl, Vernon Hester, Deon Fink, Blaine Richardson, and Chad Geary;
(11:00) Alon Cox, Matt Martin, Heyward Addy, Roy Welch, Brian Paeth, and Doug Harper

Cantor: Madison LaFontan

Readers: (8:30) Danny Able; (11:00) Jessica Maxheimer

Communion Assistants: (8:30) Paige Johnson; (11:00) Myra Strock

Order of St. Stephen's: (8:30) [A] Jackson Rawl [C] Kaidyn Glover;
(11:00) [A] Audrey Lewis [C] Susannah Howell

The Church Staff Crisis Care Line: 808-6471 Website: www.sslc.org

The Rev. Jason T. Antley The Rev. Ralph G. Hill
Mrs. Shannon Burnett, Director of Family Life Mrs. Tonya Reynolds, Parish Administrator
Ms. Susan Wilson, Director of Music/Organist Mrs. Julie Tworzyanski, Preschool Director
Mrs. Sylvia Looney, Organist Emeritus

Sunday School Information:

Locations for Children's Classes

Locations for Adult Classes

Nursery – Room #105	Saints & Sinners with Pastor Jason Room #203 (Old Agape Classroom)
2, 3, 4 year olds & 5K – Room #103	
1st—2nd Grade – Room # 206	Agape Adult Class Men's Classroom (Downstairs)
3rd—5th Grade – Room # 216	
6th, 7th, and 8th Grade – Room #212	Young Adult Class with Pastor Ralph Chapel (Upstairs New Building)
9th – 12th Grade – Room #217	