

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

**8th Sunday  
after Pentecost**

**August 3, 2025**

**8:30 AM &  
11:00 AM**

## 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.

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

*"Pastorale on a Shaker Tune"*

Andrew Clarke

(We Stand)

### BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

**Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen**

Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen**

**GATHERING HYMN***"A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing!"*

ELW 393



1 A hymn of glo - ry let us sing! New hymns through-out the world shall  
2 The ho - ly ap - os - tol - ic band up - on the Mount of Ol - ives  
3 To whom the shin - ing an - gels cry, "Why stand and gaze up - on the  
4 "You see him now, as - cend - ing high up to the por - tals of the  
5 O ris - en Christ, as - cend - ed Lord, all praise to you let earth ac -



ring: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Christ, by a road be - fore un -  
stand, Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! and with his faith - ful fol - l'wers  
sky?" Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! "This is the Sav - ior!" thus they  
sky." Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! "Here - af - ter Je - sus you shall  
cord: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! You are, while end - less ag - es



trod, as - cends un - to the throne of God.  
see their Lord as - cend in maj - es - ty.  
say, "this is his glo - rious tri - umph day!" Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -  
see re - turn - ing in great maj - es - ty."  
run, with Fa - ther and with Spir - it one.



lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

**GREETING**

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

**And also with you.**

## CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Assisting minister



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

All



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.



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.



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.

## THE SALUTATION

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

(We Sit)

## FIRST READING

Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23

<sup>2</sup>Vanity of vanities, says the Teacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity. <sup>12</sup>I, the Teacher, when king over Israel in Jerusalem, <sup>13</sup>applied my mind to seek and to search out by wisdom all that is done under heaven; it is an unhappy business that God has given to human beings to be busy with. <sup>14</sup>I saw all the deeds that are done under the sun; and see, all is vanity and a chasing after wind. <sup>2:18</sup>I hated all my toil in which I had toiled under the sun, seeing that I must leave it to those who come after me <sup>19</sup>—and who knows whether they will be wise or foolish? Yet they will be master of all for which I toiled and used my wisdom under the sun. This also is vanity. <sup>20</sup>So I turned and gave my heart up to despair concerning all the toil of my labors under the sun, <sup>21</sup>because sometimes one who has toiled with wisdom and knowledge and skill must leave all to be enjoyed by another who did not toil for it. This also is vanity and a great evil. <sup>22</sup>What do mortals get from all the toil and strain with which they toil under the sun? <sup>23</sup>For all their days are full of pain, and their work is a vexation; even at night their minds do not rest. This also is vanity.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM

Psalms 49:1-12



- <sup>1</sup>Hear this, | all you peoples;  
give ear, all you who dwell | in the world,  
<sup>2</sup>**you of high de- | gree and low,  
rich and | poor together.**  
<sup>3</sup>My mouth shall | speak of wisdom,  
and my heart shall meditate on | understanding.  
<sup>4</sup>**I will incline my ear | to a proverb  
and set forth my riddle up- | on the harp. R**  
<sup>5</sup>Why should I be afraid in | evil days,  
when the wickedness of those at my | heels surrounds me,  
<sup>6</sup>**the wickedness of those who put their trust in | their own prowess,  
and boast of | their great riches?**  
<sup>7</sup>One can never re- | deem another,  
or give to God the ransom for an- | other's life;  
<sup>8</sup>**for the ransom of a life | is so great  
that there would never be e- | nough to pay it,**  
<sup>9</sup>in order to live forev- | er and ever  
and never | see the grave.  
<sup>10</sup>**For we see that the wise die also; like the dull and stu- | pid they perish  
and leave their wealth to those who come | after them.**  
<sup>11</sup>Their graves shall be their homes forever, their dwelling places from generation to | generation,  
though they had named lands af- | ter themselves.  
<sup>12</sup>**Even though honored, they cannot | live forever;  
they are like the | beasts that perish. R**

## SECOND READING

Colossians 3:1-11

<sup>1</sup>So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup>Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, <sup>3</sup>for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup>When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory. <sup>5</sup>Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry). <sup>6</sup>On account of these the wrath of God is coming on those who are disobedient. <sup>7</sup>These are the ways you also once followed, when you were living that life. <sup>8</sup>But now you must get rid of all such things—anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth. <sup>9</sup>Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices <sup>10</sup>and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator. <sup>11</sup>In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free; but Christ is all and in all!

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

(We Stand)

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



## THE HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 12:13-21

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>13</sup>Someone in the crowd said to [Jesus,] “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me.” <sup>14</sup>But he said to him, “Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?” <sup>15</sup>And he said to them, “Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.” <sup>16</sup>Then he told them a parable: “The land of a rich man produced abundantly. <sup>17</sup>And he thought to himself, ‘What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?’ <sup>18</sup>Then he said, ‘I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. <sup>19</sup>And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.’ <sup>20</sup>But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ <sup>21</sup>So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

(We Sit)

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Pastor Ralph

SERMON

Pastor Ralph

(We Stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

*"Faith Begins By Letting Go"*

ACS 1004

1 Faith be - gins by let - ting go, giv - ing up what had seemed sure,  
2 Faith en - dures by hold - ing on, keep - ing mem - 'ry's roots a - live  
3 Faith ma - tures by reach - ing out, stretch - ing minds, en - larg - ing hearts,

tak - ing risks and press - ing on, though the way feels less se - cure:  
so that hope may bear its fruit; prom - ise - fed, our souls will thrive,  
shar - ing strug - gles, liv - ing prayer, bind - ing up the bro - ken parts;

pil - grim - age both right and odd, trust - ing all our life to God.  
not through mer - it we pos - sess but by God's great faith - ful - ness.  
till we find the com - mon - place ripe with wit - ness to God's grace.

## BLESSING FOR THE BEGINNING OF THE SCHOOL YEAR

(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](http://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

*"Children of the Heavenly Father"*

John Ferguson

Children of the heavenly Father safely in his bosom gather;  
Nestling bird or star in heaven such a refuge ne'er was given.

God his own doth tend and nourish, in his holy courts they flourish.  
From all evil things he spares them, in his mighty arms he bears them.

Though he giveth or he taketh, God his children ne'er forsaketh;  
His the loving purpose solely to preserve them pure and holy.

(We Stand)

### OFFERTORY

ELW 854

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise him, all  
crea - tures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye  
heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.



## 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 musical notation for 'THE GREAT THANKSGIVING' consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, using mostly quarter and half notes. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes.

## THE PREFACE

### THE SANCTUS

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

heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -

san-na. 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 musical notation for 'THE SANCTUS' consists of four staves of music in G major and 4/4 time. The melody is more rhythmic than the Thanksgiving hymn, featuring eighth and sixteenth notes. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes.

## 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.

## RECEPTION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

**C**hrist welcomes you to this Holy Meal of the Baptized! We receive communion this morning at the altar rail. 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

*"Largo"*

Vivaldi/Bach

*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

*"Break Now the Bread of Life"*

LBW 235

(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

Almighty and merciful God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless, preserve, and keep you this day and forevermore.

**Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN***"We Know That Christ is Raised"*

ELW 449



1 We know that Christ is raised and dies no more.  
2 We share by wa - ter in his sav - ing death.  
3 The Fa - ther's splen - dor clothes the Son with life.  
4 A new cre - a - tion comes to life and grows



Em - braced by death, he broke its fear - ful hold,  
Re - born, we share with him an Eas - ter life,  
The Spir - it's fis - sion shakes the church of God.  
as Christ's new bod - y takes on flesh and blood.



and our de - spair he turned to blaz - ing joy.  
as liv - ing mem - bers of our Sav - ior Christ.  
Bap - tized, we live with God the Three in One.  
The u - ni - verse re - stored and whole will sing:



Hal - le - lu - jah!

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.****POSTLUDE***"March Royale"*

Jean-Baptiste Lully

**ALTAR FLOWERS** are given to the glory of God and his unending grace and in honor of our families by Lacy, Chad, Connor, and Gracen Geary.

**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, Heyward Addy, Roy Welch, Brian Paeth, Doug Harper, and Matt Martin

Cantor/Soloist: Melissa Rawl

Organist: Frances Webb

Greeters: (8:30) Sandy Shealy; (11:00) Bonnie Long

Readers: (8:30) Anna Browder; (11:00) Cathy Mathias

Communion Assistants: (8:30) Paul and Lucy Austin; (11:00) Cathy Mathias and

Order of St. Stephen's: (8:30) [A] Luke Wenzel [C] Shaun Wessinger [BB] Jaime Wessinger;  
(11:00) [A] [C] Madelyn Burgess [BB]

**The Church Staff**

**Website: [www.sslc.org](http://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

**Summer Sunday School Information:**

**Locations for Adult Classes**

<b>Agape Adult Class</b>
Room #102 (Closest to Narthex)
<b>Saints &amp; Sinners with PJ and PR</b>
Room #203 (Large Upstairs Room)
If you are interested in beginning a new Sunday School class please contact Mrs. Shannon.

If you are not receiving the weekly announcements and monthly newsletter via email and would like to receive them, please email Shannon ([Shannon@ssl.org](mailto:Shannon@ssl.org)) so she can add you to the distribution list.