

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

**10th Sunday
after Pentecost**

August 17, 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

"Andante"

Fanny Mendelssohn Hensel

(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*"How Firm a Foundation"*

ELW 796



- 1 How firm a foun - da - tion, O saints of the Lord,
- 2 "Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dis - mayed,
- 3 "When through fi - 'ry tri - als your path - way shall lie,
- 4 "Through - out all their life - time my peo - ple shall prove



is laid for your faith in Christ Je - sus, the Word!
for I am your God and will still give you aid;
my grace, all - suf - fi - cient, shall be your sup - ply.
my sov - 'reign, e - ter - nal, un - change - a - ble love;



What more can he say than to you he has said
I'll strength - en you, help you, and cause you to stand,
The flames shall not hurt you; I on - ly de - sign
and then, when gray hairs shall their tem - ples a - dorn,



who un - to the Sav - ior for ref - uge have fled?
up - held by my righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand."
your dross to con - sume and your gold to re - fine."
like lambs they shall still in my bo - som be borne."

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

Jeremiah 23:23-29

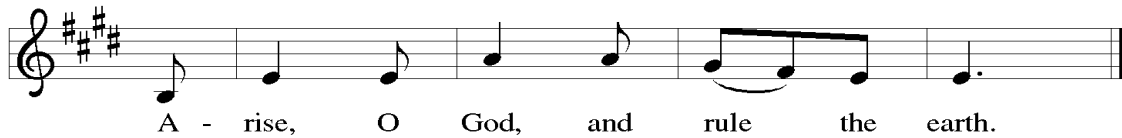
²³Am I a God near by, says the LORD, and not a God far off? ²⁴Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them? says the LORD. Do I not fill heaven and earth? says the LORD. ²⁵I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, "I have dreamed, I have dreamed!" ²⁶How long? Will the hearts of the prophets ever turn back—those who prophesy lies, and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart? ²⁷They plan to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, just as their ancestors forgot my name for Baal. ²⁸Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let the one who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? says the LORD. ²⁹Is not my word like fire, says the LORD, and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 82



¹God stands to charge the divine coun-¹ cil assembled,
giving judgment in the midst¹ of the gods:

²**"How long will you¹ judge unjustly,
and show favor¹ to the wicked?**

³Save the weak¹ and the orphan;
defend the hum-¹ ble and needy;

⁴**rescue the weak¹ and the poor;
deliver them from the power¹ of the wicked. R**

⁵They do not know, neither do they understand; they wander a-¹ bout in darkness;
all the foundations of the¹ earth are shaken.

⁶**Now I say to you,¹ 'You are gods,
and all of you children of¹ the Most High;**

⁷nevertheless, you shall¹ die like mortals,
and fall like¹ any prince.'"

⁸**Arise, O God, and¹ rule the earth,
for you shall take all nations¹ for your own. R**

SECOND READING

Hebrews 11:29--12:2

²⁹By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. ³⁰By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. ³¹By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace. ³²And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets—³³who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, ³⁴quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. ³⁵Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. ³⁶Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. ³⁷They were stoned to death, they were sawn in two, they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented—³⁸of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground. ³⁹Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, ⁴⁰since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect.

^{12:1}Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, ²looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

(We Stand)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



THE HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 12:49-56

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ^{49a}"I came to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! ⁵⁰I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what stress I am under until it is completed! ⁵¹Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! ⁵²From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; ⁵³they will be divided: father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter

against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.”⁵⁴ He also said to the crowds, “When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, ‘It is going to rain’; and so it happens.”⁵⁵ And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, ‘There will be scorching heat’; and it happens.”⁵⁶ You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?”

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

(We Sit)

CHILDREN’S SERMON
SERMON

Pastor Ralph
Pastor Ralph

(We Stand)

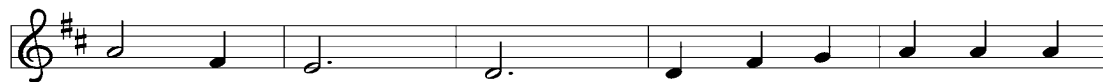
HYMN OF THE DAY

“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”

ELW 815



1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to
2 I want to see . . . the bright-ness of God. I want to
3 I’m look - ing for . . . the com - ing of Christ. I want to



fol - low Je - sus. God set the stars to give
look at Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ - teous-ness,
be with Je - sus. When we have run . . . with



light to the world. The star of my life is Je - sus.
shine on my path, and show me the way to the Fa - ther.
pa - tience the race, we shall know the joy of Je - sus.

Refrain



In him there is no dark-ness at all. The night and the



day are both a - like. The Lamb is the light of the



cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

THE APOSTLE'S 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 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

"You are Mine"

Mark Hayes

I will come to you in the silence; I will lift you from all your fear.
You will hear my voice, I claim you as my choice, be still and know I am here.
I am hope for all who are hopeless, I am eyes for all who long to see.
In the shadows of the night I will be your light, come and rest in me.

Do not be afraid, I am with you. I have called you each by name.
Come and follow me, I will bring you home; I love you and you are mine.

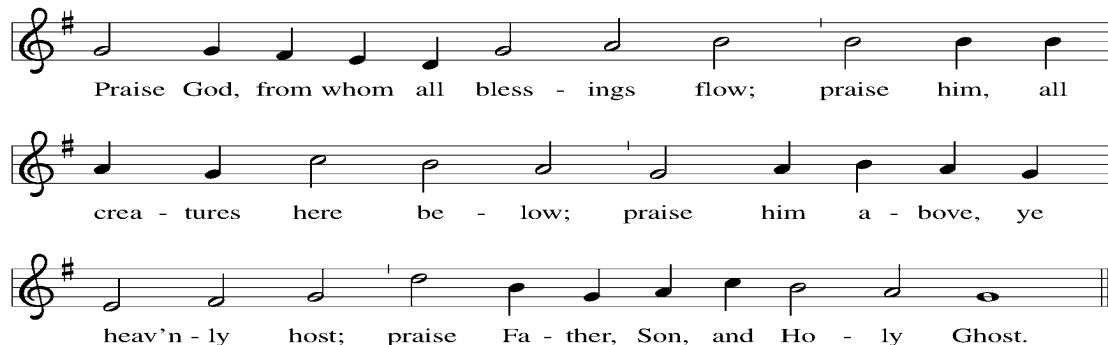
I am strength for all the despairing, healing for the ones who dwell in shame.
All the blind will see, the lame will all run free, and all will know my name.

I am the Word that leads all to freedom, I am the peace the world cannot give.
I will call your name, embracing all your pain. Stand up, now walk, and live!

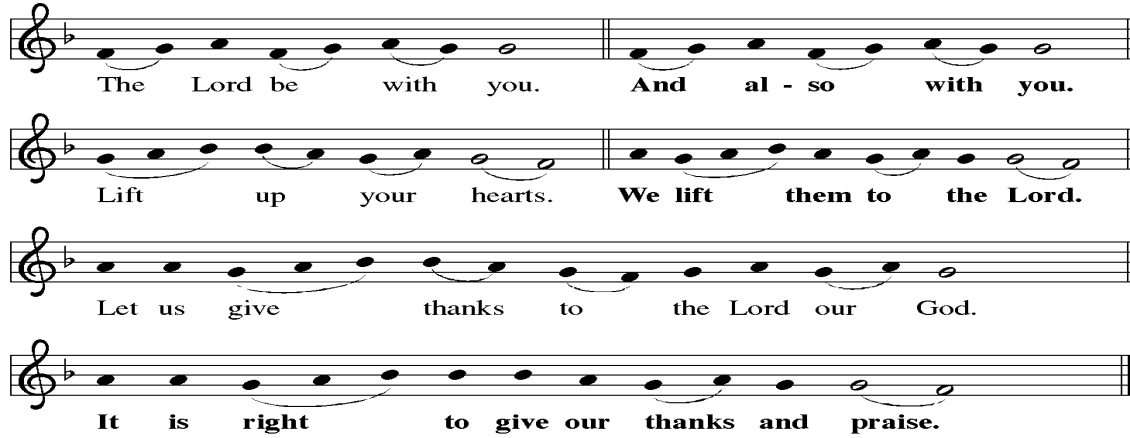
(We Stand)

OFFERTORY

ELW 854

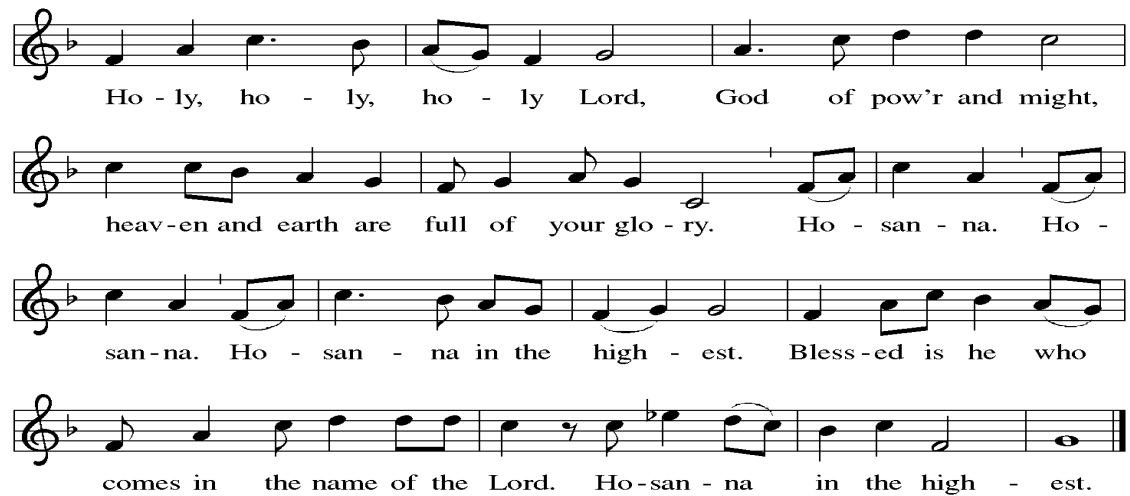


THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



THE PREFACE

THE SANCTUS



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

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

"Amazing Grace"

Hal H. Hopson

*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

"I Love Your Kingdom, Lord"

LBW 368

(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

"O God of Every Nation"

ELW 713



1 O God of ev - 'ry na - tion, of ev - 'ry race and land,
2 From search for wealth and pow - er and scorn of truth and right,
3 Lord, strength-en all who la - bor that all may find re - lease
4 Keep bright in us the vi - sion of days when war shall cease,



re - deem your whole cre - a - tion with your al - might - y hand;
from trust in bombs that show - er de - struc - tion through the night,
from fear of rat - tling sa - ber, from dread of war's in - crease;
when ha - tred and di - vi - sion give way to love and peace,



where hate and fear di - vide us and bit - ter threats are hurled,
from pride of race and sta - tion and blind - ness to your way,
when hope and cour - age fal - ter, Lord, let your voice be heard;
till dawns the morn - ing glo - rious when truth and love shall reign,



in love and mer - cy guide us and heal our strife - torn world.
de - liv - er ev - 'ry na - tion, e - ter - nal God, we pray.
with faith that none can al - ter, your ser - vants un - der - gird.
and Christ shall rule vic - to - rious o'er all the world's do - main.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

"Fantasy on Foundation"

Alice Jordan

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the glory of God and in honor of her grandson, Khaza's, first birthday by Celeste Morgan.

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: Stephen Lunsford

Greeters: (8:30) Jennifer and Brant Taylor; (11:00) Mary Sesler

Readers: (8:30) Brant Taylor; (11:00) Jamie Early

Communion Assistants: (8:30) Bobby Martin; (11:00) Jamie Early

Order of St. Stephen's: (8:30) [A] Jackson Rawl [C] Weston Hill;
(11:00) [A] Ben Brunson C] Thomas Brunson

The Church Staff

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	Agape Adult Class Room #102 (Closest to Narthex)
2—4 year olds & 5K – Room #103	Saints & Sinners with PJ and PR Room #203 (Large Upstairs Room)
1st—5th Grade – Room # 216	For those not attending a Sunday School class but waiting on a child to get out of one, feel free to sit in the Social Hall!
6th—8th Grade – Room #212	
9th—12th Grade – Room #217	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) so she can add you to the distribution list.

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