

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

**12th Sunday
after Pentecost**

August 31, 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

"Morning Has Broken"

Don Michael Dicie

(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,

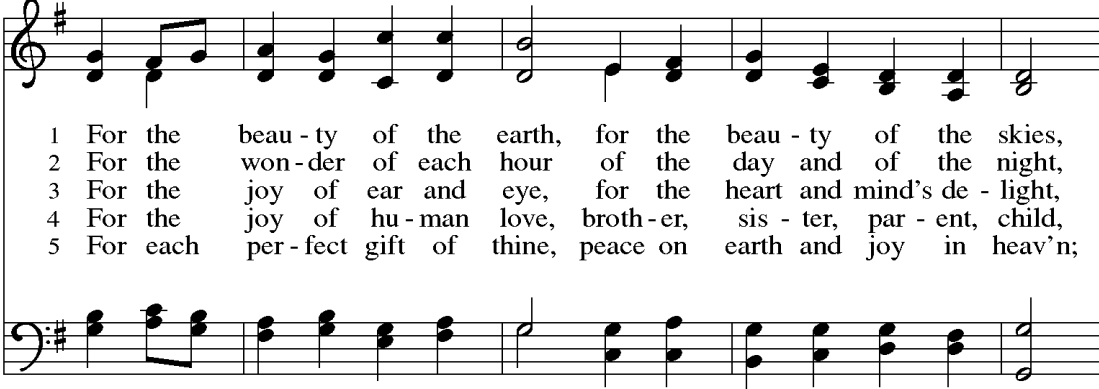
we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, 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

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace we have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen us with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in our hearts through faith.

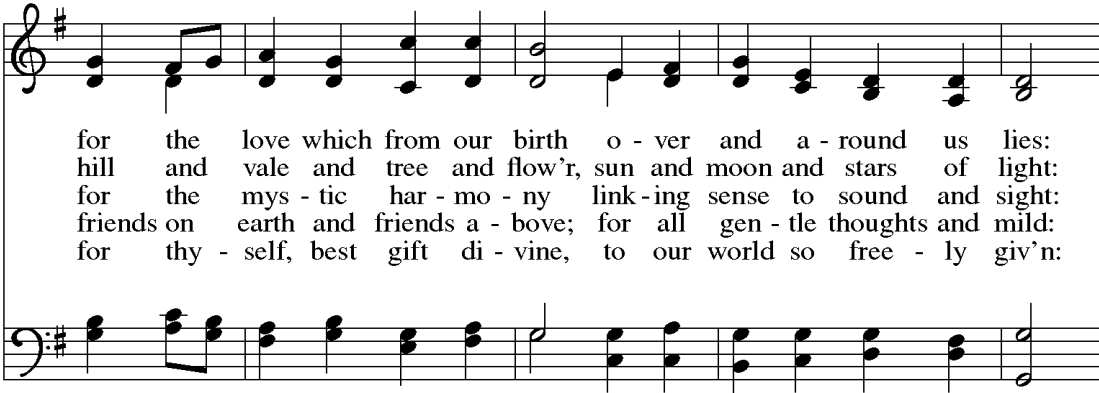
Amen

GATHERING HYMN*"For the Beauty of the Earth"*

ELW 879



1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the beau - ty of the skies,
2 For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,
3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de - light,
4 For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,
5 For each per - fect gift of thine, peace on earth and joy in heav'n;



for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies:
hill and vale and tree and flow'r, sun and moon and stars of light:
for the mys - tic har - mo - ny link - ing sense to sound and sight:
friends on earth and friends a - bove; for all gen - tle thoughts and mild:
for thy - self, best gift di - vine, to our world so free - ly giv'n;

Refrain



Christ, our God, to thee we raise this our sac - ri - fice of praise.

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

Proverbs 25:6-7

⁶Do not put yourself forward in the king's presence or stand in the place of the great; ⁷for it is better to be told, "Come up here," than to be put lower in the presence of a noble.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalms 112



¹Hallelujah! Happy are they who | fear the LORD
and have great delight in | God's commandments!

²**Their descendants will be mighty | in the land;**
the generation of the upright | will be blessed. R

³Wealth and riches will be | in their house,
and their righteousness will | last forever.

⁴**Light shines in the darkness | for the upright;**
the righteous are merciful and full | of compassion.

⁵It is good for them to be gener- | ous in lending
and to manage their af- | fairs with justice.

⁶**For they will nev- | er be shaken;**
the righteous will be kept in everlast- | ing remembrance. R

⁷They will not be afraid of any | evil rumors;
their heart is steadfast, trusting | in the LORD.

⁸**Their heart is established and | will not shrink,**
until they see their desire up- | on their enemies.

⁹They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness stands | fast forever;
they will hold up their | head with honor.

¹⁰**The wicked will see it and be angry; they will gnash their teeth and | pine away;**
the desires of the wick- | ed will perish. R

SECOND READING

Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

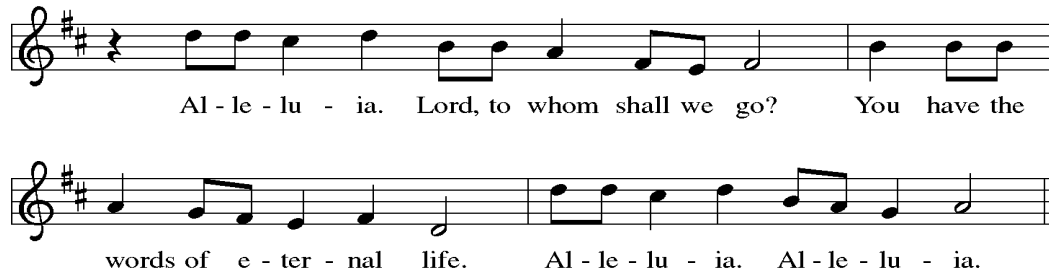
¹Let mutual love continue. ²Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. ³Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. ⁴Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled; for God will judge fornicators and adulterers. ⁵Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have; for he has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." ⁶So we can say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can anyone do to me?" ⁷Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. ⁸Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. ¹⁵Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. ¹⁶Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

(We Stand)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



THE HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 14:1, 7-14

The holy gospel according to St. Luke, the 14th chapter.

Glorify to you, O Lord.

¹On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the sabbath, they were watching him closely.

⁷When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. ⁸"When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host; ⁹and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, 'Give this person your place,' and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. ¹⁰But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher'; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. ¹¹For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

¹²He said also to the one who had invited him, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. ¹³But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. ¹⁴And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

(We Sit)

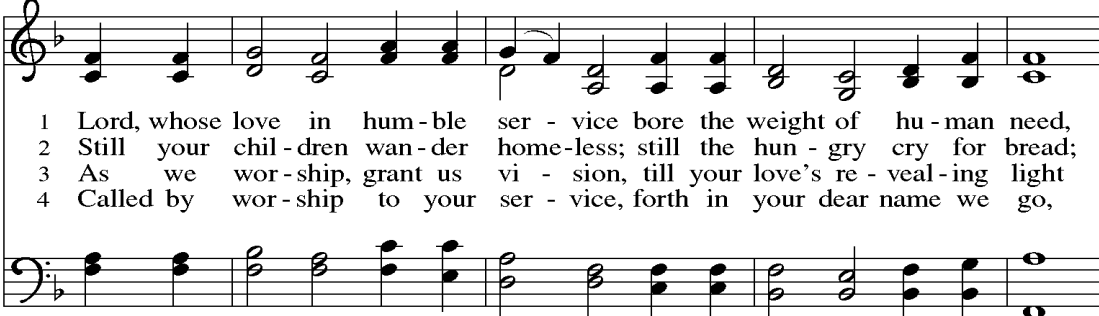
CHILDREN'S SERMON

Pastor Ralph

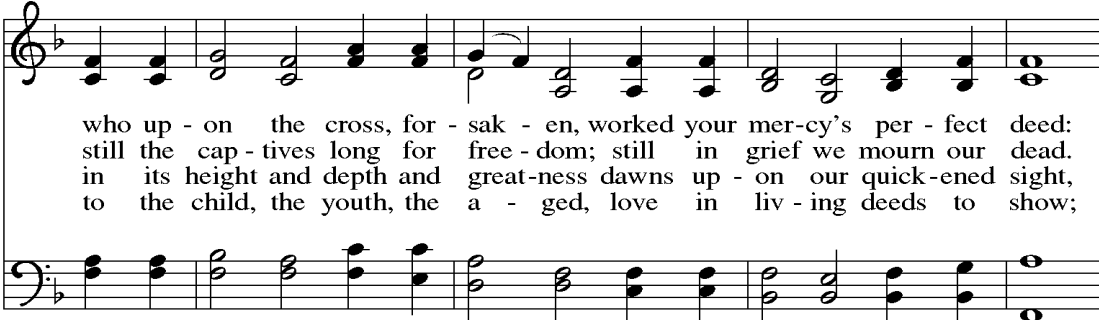
SERMON

Pastor Ralph

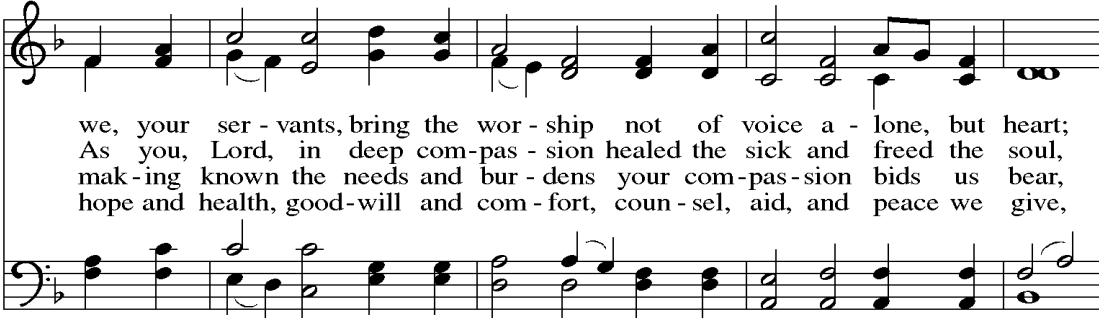
(We Stand)



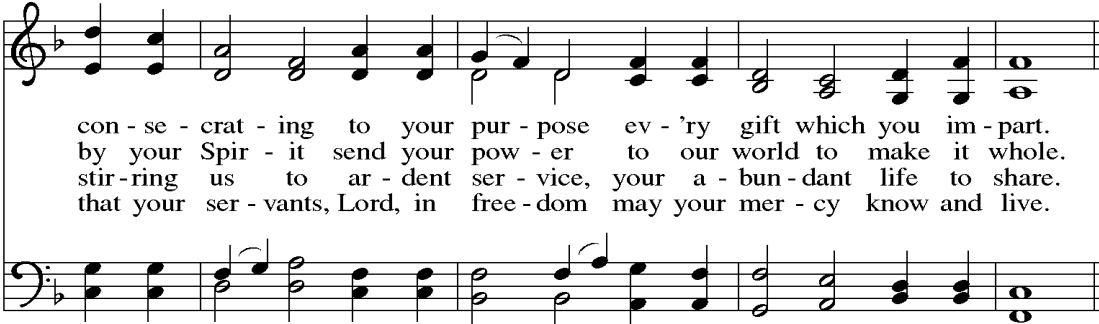
1 Lord, whose love in hum-ble ser - vice bore the weight of hu-man need,
2 Still your chil-dren wan-der home-less; still the hun - gry cry for bread;
3 As we wor-ship, grant us vi - sion, till your love's re - veal-ing light
4 Called by wor-ship to your ser - vice, forth in your dear name we go,



who up - on the cross, for - sak - en, worked your mer-cy's per - fect deed;
still the cap - tives long for free - dom; still in grief we mourn our dead.
in its height and depth and great-ness dawns up - on our quick-ened sight,
to the child, the youth, the a - ged, love in liv - ing deeds to show;



we, your ser - vants, bring the wor - ship not of voice a - lone, but heart;
As you, Lord, in deep com-pas - sion healed the sick and freed the soul,
mak-ing known the needs and bur - dens your com-pas-sion bids us bear,
hope and health, good-will and com - fort, coun - sel, aid, and peace we give,



con - se - crat - ing to your pur - pose ev - 'ry gift which you im - part.
by your Spir - it send your pow - er to our world to make it whole.
stir-ring us to ar - dent ser - vice, your a - bun - dant life to share.
that your ser - vants, Lord, in free - dom may your mer - cy know and live.

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.



VOLUNTARY

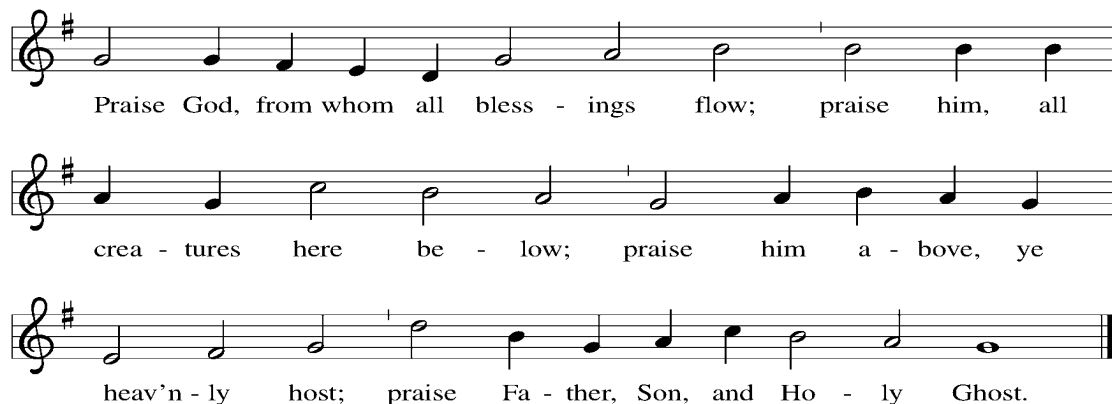
"Etude No. 10" from 25 Etudes, Opus 50

Louise Farrenc

(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.

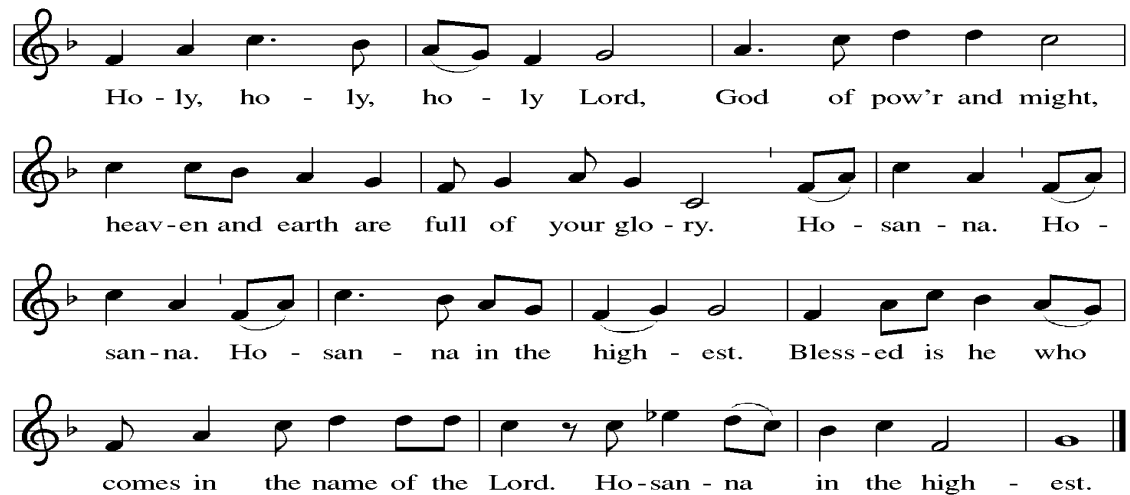
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

THE 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 EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

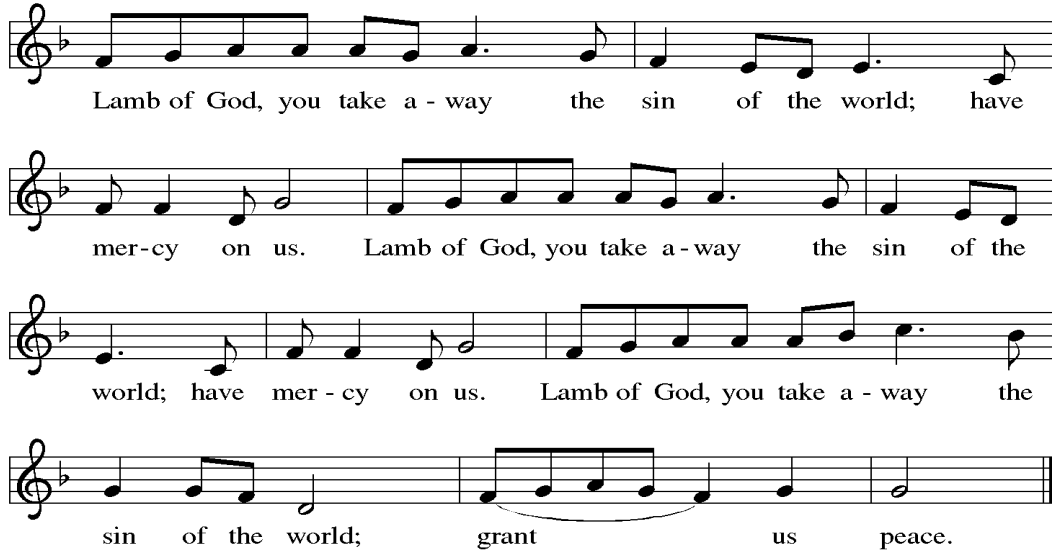
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the 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



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

"The Gift of Love"

James M. Stevens

*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

"O Living Bread from Heaven"

LBW 197

(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

"Here I Am, Lord"

ELW 574



1 "I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo - ple cry.
2 "I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo - ple's pain.
3 "I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.



All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.
I have wept for love of them. They turn a - way.
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.



I, who made the stars of night, I will make their dark-ness bright.
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a - lone.
Fin-est bread I will pro-vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied.



Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?"
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?"
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?"



Refrain
Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you



call-ing in the night. I will go, Lord, if you



lead me. I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

"On Our Way Rejoicing Gladly Let us Go"

Frances R. Havergal

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the glory of God and in memory of Verdell Koon Hayes by her grandson, Greg Brewer.

SERVING TODAY:

Ushers: (8:30) Reuben Eargle, Sandy Shealy, Ron Redd, Steve Fowler, Jim Nantz, and Daryl Hooker;

(11:00) Otis Rawl, G Kolb, Mike Burgess, Myra Strock, Manning Burgess, Roy Windham, and George Mathias

Cantor: Shawn Lackey

Percussionist: Matthew Jones

Greeters: (8:30) Shannon Burnett; (11:00) Carolinda Getz

Readers: (8:30) Neil Brown; (11:00) Shannon Burnett

Communion Assistants: (8:30) Marty Nantz; (11:00) Myra Strock

Order of St. Stephen's: (8:30) [A] Gracen Geary [C] Connor Geary;
(11:00) [A] Audrey Lewis [C] Shannon Burnett

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	Women Digging Deeper Parlor
6th—8th Grade – Room #212	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!
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@sslc.org) so she can add you to the distribution list.

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