

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

**Holy Cross Day**

**September 14, 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!



## **GREETING, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND THE PEACE**

### **PRELUDE**

*"Adagio"*

Tommaso Albinoni

(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

*"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"*

ELW 858

1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre - a - tion!  
 2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is won-drous-ly reign - ing  
 3 Praise to the Lord, who will pros - per your work and de - fend you;  
 4 Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me a - dore him!

O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and sal - va - tion!  
 and, as on wings of an ea - gle, up - lift - ing, sus - tain - ing.  
 sure - ly his good - ness and mer - cy shall dai - ly at - tend you.  
 All that has life and breath, come now with prais - es be - fore him!

Let all who hear now to his tem - ple draw near,  
 Have you not seen all that is need - ful has been  
 Pon - der a - new what the Al - might - y can do  
 Let the a - men sound from his peo - ple a - gain.

join - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion!  
 sent by his gra - cious or - dain - ing?  
 if with his love he be - friend you.  
 Glad - ly for - ev - er a - dore him!

## 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

Numbers 21:4b-9

[From Mount Hor the Israelites set out,] <sup>4b</sup> but the people became discouraged on the way. <sup>5</sup> The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." <sup>6</sup> Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. <sup>7</sup> The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. <sup>8</sup> And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." <sup>9</sup> So Moses made a serpent of bronze and put it upon a pole, and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

## PSALM

Psalms 98:1-4



The LORD has done mar - vel - ous things.

<sup>1</sup> Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done <sup>1</sup> marvelous things,  
whose right hand and holy arm have <sup>1</sup> won the victory.

<sup>2</sup> **O LORD, you have made <sup>1</sup> known your victory,  
you have revealed your righteousness in the sight <sup>1</sup> of the nations. R**

<sup>3</sup> You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the <sup>1</sup> house of Israel;  
all the ends of the earth have seen the victory <sup>1</sup> of our God.

<sup>4</sup> **Shout with joy to the LORD, <sup>1</sup> all you lands;  
lift up your voice, re- <sup>1</sup> joice, and sing. R**

## SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 1:18-24

<sup>18</sup> The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. <sup>19</sup> For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." <sup>20</sup> Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? <sup>21</sup> For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of the proclamation, to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup> For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, <sup>23</sup> but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, <sup>24</sup> but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

(We Stand)

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



## THE HOLY GOSPEL

John 3:13-17

The holy gospel according to St. John, the 3rd chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] <sup>13</sup> "No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup> And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup> that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. <sup>16</sup> "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. <sup>17</sup> "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him."

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

(We Sit)

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

Pastor Ralph

## SERMON

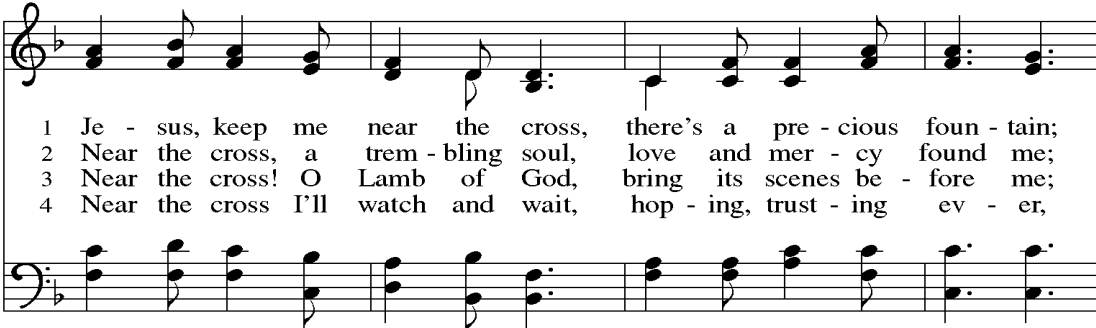
Pastor Ralph

(We Stand)

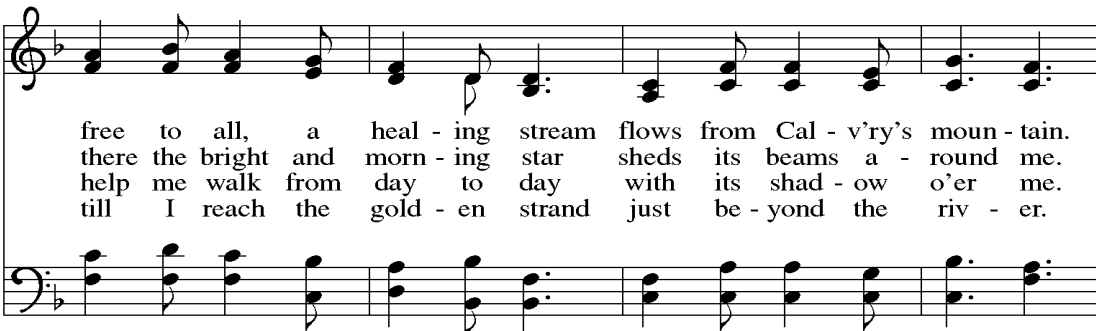
## HYMN OF THE DAY

## "Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross"

ELW 335

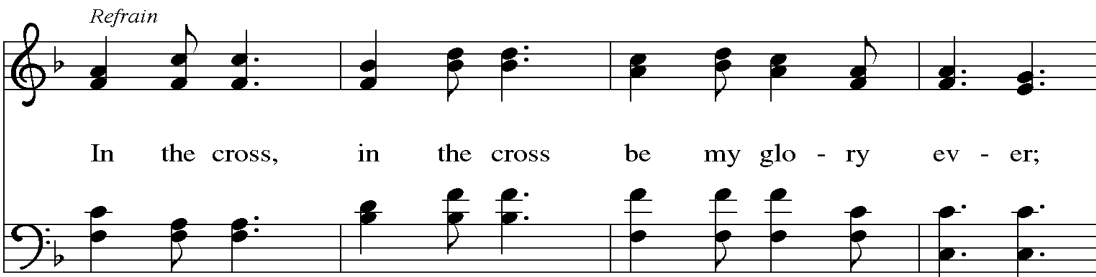


1 Je - sus, keep me near the cross, there's a pre - cious foun - tain;  
2 Near the cross, a trem - bling soul, love and mer - cy found me;  
3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes be - fore me;  
4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hop - ing, trust - ing ev - er,



free to all, a heal - ing stream flows from Cal - v'ry's moun - tain.  
there the bright and morn - ing star sheds its beams a - round me.  
help me walk from day to day with its shad - ow o'er me.  
till I reach the gold - en strand just be - yond the riv - er.

*Refrain*



In the cross, in the cross be my glo - ry ev - er;



till my ran - somed soul shall find rest be - yond the riv - er.

## 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](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

*"Goodness of God"*

Ed Kerr

I love you, Lord. Oh, your mercy never fails me. All my days I've been held in your hands.  
From the moment I wake up until I lay my head oh, I will sing of the goodness of God.

And all my life you have been faithful. And all my life you have been so so good.  
With every breath that I am able oh, I will sing of the goodness of God.

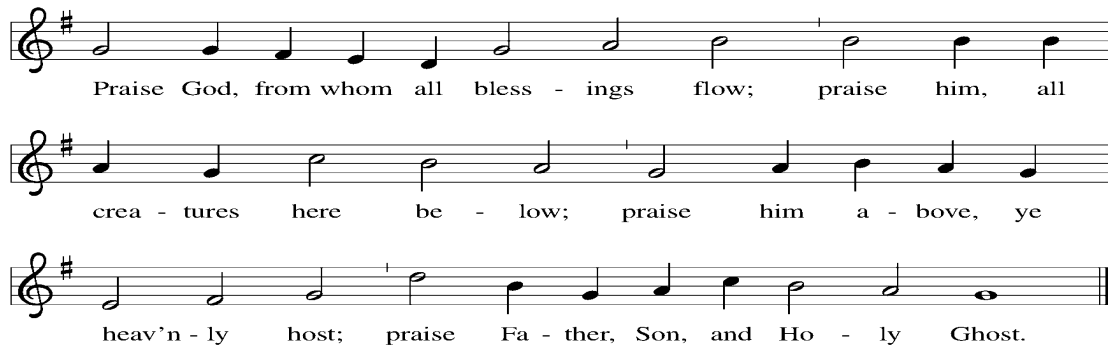
I love your voice. You have led me through the fire and in darkest nights.  
You are close like no other. I've known you as a father.  
I've known you as a friend. And I have lived In the goodness of God.

'Cause your goodness is running after me. With my life laid down,  
I'm surrendered now. I give you everything.

(We Stand)

### OFFERTORY

ELW 854





## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



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

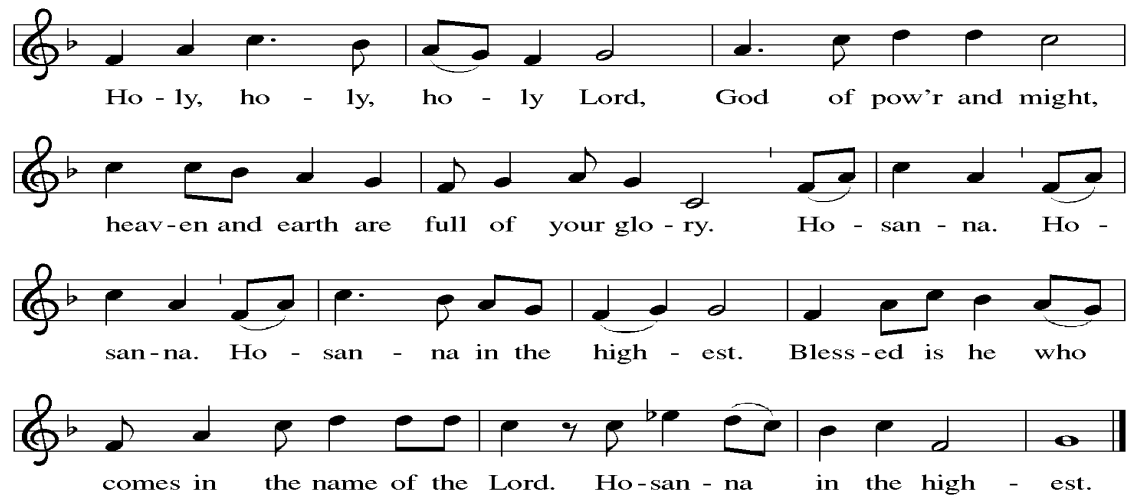
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

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

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 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

*"As We Gather at Your Table"*

Rebecca te Velde

*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

*"In the Cross of Christ I Glory"*

LBW 104

(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.**

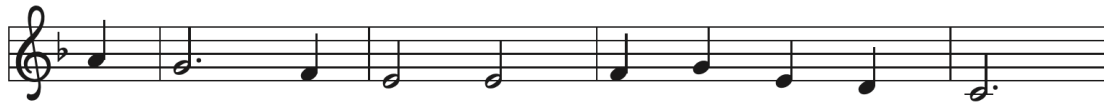
**SENDING HYMN**

*"Go to the World"*

ACS 991



1 Go to the world! Go in - to all the earth.  
 2 Go to the world! Go in - to ev - 'ry place.  
 3 Go to the world! Go strug - gle, bless, and pray;  
 4 "Go to the world! Go as the ones I send,



Go preach the cross where Christ re - news life's worth,  
 Go live the word of God's re - deem - ing grace.  
 the nights of tears give way to joy - ous day.  
 for I am with you till the age shall end,



bap - tiz - ing as the sign of our re - birth.  
 Go seek God's pres - ence in each time and space.  
 As ser - vant church, you fol - low Christ's own way.  
 when all the hosts of glo - ry cry, A - men!"



Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

*"Trumpet Finale"*

Tommaso Albinoni

**ALTAR FLOWERS** are given to the glory of God and in memory of our mothers, Mrs. Agnes Gallo & Mrs. Helen Bank on their shared birthdate of 9.19 by Bob & Pat Bank.

**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:** Madison LaFontan

**Soloist:** Chappell Lackore

**Greeters:** (8:30) David Able; (11:00) Shannon Burnett

**Readers:** (8:30) Janice Buff; (11:00) Sharon Paeth

**Communion Assistants:** (8:30) Ann Clark; (11:00) Heyward Addy

**Order of St. Stephen's:** (8:30) [A] Caroline Hooker [C] Katy Hooker;  
(11:00) [A] Eli Maxheimer [C] Jocelyn Summerall

**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

**Sunday School Information:**

**Locations for Children's Classes**

**Locations for Adult Classes**

<b>Nursery</b> – Room #105	<b>Agape Adult Class</b> Room #102 (Closest to Narthex)
<b>2—4 year olds &amp; 5K</b> – Room #103	<b>Saints &amp; Sinners with PJ and PR</b> Room #203 (Large Upstairs Room)
<b>1<sup>st</sup>—5<sup>th</sup> Grade</b> – Room # 216	<b>Women Digging Deeper</b> Parlor
<b>6<sup>th</sup>—8<sup>th</sup> Grade</b> – 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!
<b>9<sup>th</sup>—12<sup>th</sup> Grade</b> – 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](mailto:Shannon@sslc.org)) so she can add you to the distribution list.

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