

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

**St. Matthew, Apostle  
and Evangelist**

**September 21, 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**

*"Awake, Awake to Love and Work"*

Sam Batt Owens

(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

"As Saints of Old"

ELW 695



1 As saints of old their first-fruits brought of or - chard, flock, and field  
 2 A world in need now sum-mons us to la - bor, love, and give;  
 3 In grat - i - tude and hum-bles trust we bring our best to - day



to God, the giv - er of all good, the source of boun-teous yield,  
 to make our life an of - fer - ing to God, that all may live,  
 to serve your cause and share your love with all a - long life's way.



so we to - day first - fruits would bring, the wealth of this good land,  
 The church of Christ is call - ing us to make the dream come true:  
 O God, who gave your - self to us in Je - sus Christ your Son,



of farm and mar - ket, shop and home, of mind and heart and hand.  
 a world re-deemed by Christ-like love; all life in Christ made new.  
 teach us to give our - selves each day un - til life's work is done.

## 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

*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb

who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich-es, wis - dom, and

strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of

God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,

glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,  
 al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was  
 slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.  
*Final refrain*  
 This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.  
 Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## THE SALUTATION

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

(We Sit)

## FIRST READING

Ezekiel 2:8-3:11

<sup>8</sup>“You, mortal, hear what I say to you; do not be rebellious like that rebellious house; open your mouth and eat what I give you.” <sup>9</sup>I looked, and a hand was stretched out to me, and a written scroll was in it. <sup>10</sup>He spread it before me; it had writing on the front and on the back, and written on it were words of lamentation and mourning and woe. <sup>3:1</sup>He said to me, “O mortal, eat what is offered to you; eat this scroll, and go, speak to the house of Israel.” <sup>2</sup>So I opened my mouth, and he gave me the scroll to eat. <sup>3</sup>He said to me, “Mortal, eat this scroll that I give you and fill your stomach with it.” Then I ate it, and in my mouth it was as sweet as honey. <sup>4</sup>He said to me, “Mortal, go to the house of Israel and speak my very words to them. <sup>5</sup>For you are not sent to a people of obscure speech and difficult language but to the house of Israel, <sup>6</sup>not to many peoples of obscure speech and difficult language whose words you cannot understand. Surely, if I sent you to them, they would listen to you. <sup>7</sup>But the house of Israel will not be willing to listen to you, for they are not willing to listen to me, because all the house of Israel have a hard forehead and a stubborn heart. <sup>8</sup>See, I have made your face hard against their faces and your forehead hard against their foreheads. <sup>9</sup>Like the hardest stone, harder than flint, I have made your forehead; do not fear them or be dismayed at their looks, for they are a rebellious house.” <sup>10</sup>He said to me, “Mortal, all my words that I shall speak to you receive in your heart and hear with your ears; <sup>11</sup>then go to the exiles, to your people, and speak to them. Say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord God,’ whether they hear or refuse to hear.”

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM

Psalm 119:33-40



- <sup>33</sup> Teach me, O LORD, the way<sup>1</sup> of your statutes,  
and I shall keep it<sup>1</sup> to the end.  
<sup>34</sup> **Give me understanding, and I shall<sup>1</sup> keep your teaching;  
I shall keep it with<sup>1</sup> all my heart.**  
<sup>35</sup> Lead me in the path of<sup>1</sup> your commandments,  
for that is<sup>1</sup> my desire.  
<sup>36</sup> **Incline my heart to<sup>1</sup> your decrees  
and not to<sup>1</sup> unjust gain. R**  
<sup>37</sup> Turn my eyes from be-<sup>1</sup> holding falsehood;  
give me life<sup>1</sup> in your way.  
<sup>38</sup> **Fulfill your promise<sup>1</sup> to your servant,  
which is for<sup>1</sup> those who fear you.**  
<sup>39</sup> Turn away the reproach<sup>1</sup> that I dread,  
because your judg-<sup>1</sup> ments are good.  
<sup>40</sup> **Behold, I long for<sup>1</sup> your commandments;  
by your righteousness en-<sup>1</sup> liven me. R**

## SECOND READING

Ephesians 2:4-10

<sup>4</sup> God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us <sup>5</sup> even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved <sup>6</sup> and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup> so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup> For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God <sup>9</sup> not the result of works, so that no one may boast. <sup>10</sup> For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we may walk in them.

The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

(We Stand)

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



## THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 9:9-13

The holy gospel according to St. Matthew, the 9th chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>9</sup> As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax-collection station, and he said to him, "Follow me." And he got up and followed him. <sup>10</sup> And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax collectors and sinners came and were sitting with Jesus and his disciples. <sup>11</sup> When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" <sup>12</sup> But when he heard this, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. <sup>13</sup> Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous but sinners."

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

(We Sit)

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

Pastor Jason

## SERMON

Pastor Jason

(We Stand)

## HYMN OF THE DAY

*"When Jesus Called to Matthew"*

(Sung to the tune of "The Church's One Foundation")

When Jesus called to Matthew and told him, "Follow me,"  
That tax collector listened and followed willingly.  
He left his work behind him and changed his life that day;  
For nothing could be better than living Jesus' way.

Where Jesus offered mercy, the Pharisees saw sin;  
"They said, 'He welcomes sinners and even eats with them.'  
Yet Jesus knew God's table should be a welcome place;  
To Matthew and to others, he offered words of grace.

We wonder what he witnessed — what Matthew heard and saw.  
Did Jesus' teaching leave him in wonder and in awe?  
As Matthew heard Christ preaching, as Matthew went to serve,  
Did he recall forgiveness that he did not deserve?

When Jesus called to Matthew and told him, "Follow me,"  
The Lord was busy building a new community.  
He built a church that centered on wonderful surprise:  
God's reign is one of welcome! God's welcome changes lives!

Tune: Samuel Sebastian Wesley, 1864

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## 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.



### (8:30) ANTHEM

*"Seek Ye First"*

Karen Lafferty

Seek ye first the kingdom of God and its righteousness,  
and all these things will be added unto you; Allelu, alleluia.  
Ask, and it shall be given unto you, seek, and ye shall find,  
knock, and the door shall be opened unto you; Allelu, alleluia!

### (11:00) VOLUNTARY

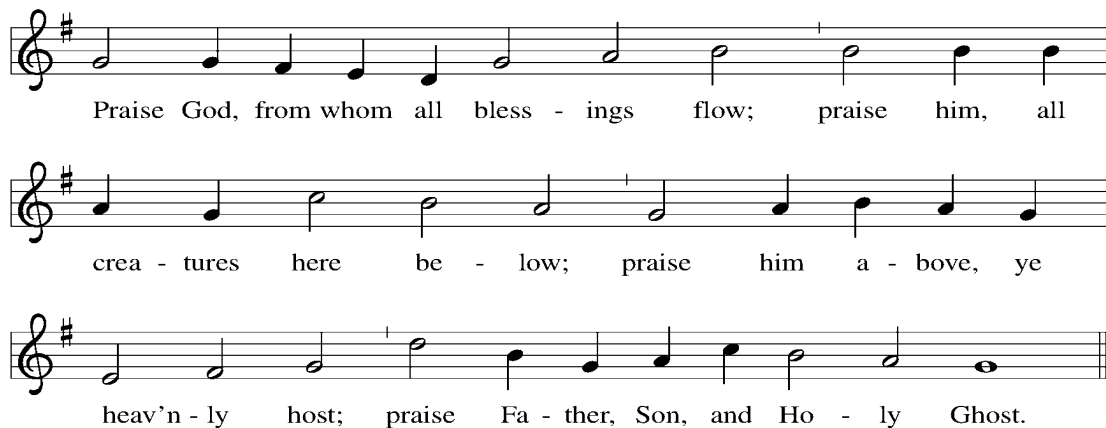
*"O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts"*

Charles Callahan

(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. Each staff contains a single melodic line with lyrics underneath. The first staff has two measures, the second and third have two measures each, and the fourth has one measure. The lyrics are: '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.', and '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 musical notation for 'THE SANCTUS' consists of four staves of music in G major and 4/4 time. Each staff contains a single melodic line with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: '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', and 'comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.'

## THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

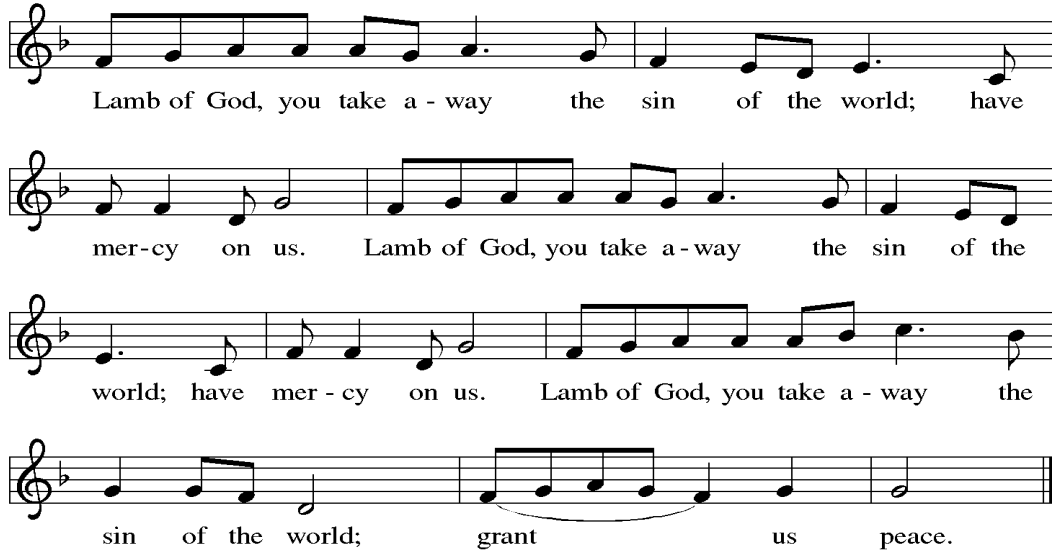
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the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

**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

*"Diapason Movement"*

John Stanley

*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

*"Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness"*

LBW 224

(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***"Let Justice Flow Like Streams"*

ELW 717

1 Let jus - tice flow like streams of spar - kling wa - ter, pure,  
2 Let righ - teous - ness roll on as oth - ers' cares we heed,  
3 So may God's plumb line, straight, de - fine our mea - sure true,

en - a - bling growth, re - fresh - ing life, a - bun - dant, cleans - ing, sure.  
an ev - er - flow - ing stream of faith trans - lat - ed in - to deed.  
and jus - tice, right, and peace per - vade this world our whole life through.

The musical score is written for a three-part setting (Soprano, Alto, and Tenor/Bass) in G major and 4/4 time. The first system contains the first three lines of the hymn. The second system contains the final two lines. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a clear harmonic structure. The lyrics are printed below the staves, with line numbers 1, 2, and 3 indicating the different parts.

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.****POSTLUDE***"Let Streams of Living Justice"*

Gustav Holst

**ALTAR FLOWERS** are given to the glory of God and in honor of our 36th wedding anniversary and Lucy's Birthday by Paul Austin.

**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:** Shawn Lackey

**Greeters:** (8:30) Steve and Marian Fowler; (11:00) Rick and Suzanne Swaffield

**Readers:** (8:30) Bill Carroll; (11:00) Shannon Burnett

**Communion Assistants:** (8:30) Danny Able; (11:00) Ed Smith

**Order of St. Stephen's:** (8:30) [A] Jackson Rawl [C] Gracen Geary;  
(11:00) [A] Sarah Ellis Stafford [C] Mary Beth Stafford

**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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