

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

**Seventh Sunday of Easter**

**May 17, 2026**

**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.

Sunday school classes are provided for 2 year olds through adults.

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 PEACE**

### **PRELUDE**

*"All Things Bright and Beautiful"*

Wilbur Held

### **(8:30) LITURGY FOR THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM**

(We Stand)

### **(11:00) THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, one God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation.

**Amen.**

*A reading from Romans:* Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. (*Romans 6:3-5*)

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

**We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.**

**We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.**

Almighty God, who gives us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit and forgives us all our sins, strengthen us in all goodness and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life through + Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN**

*"All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly"*

ELW 461



1 All who hun-ger, gath-er glad-ly; ho-ly man-na is our bread.  
 2 All who hun-ger, nev-er strang-ers; seek-er, be a wel-come guest.  
 3 All who hun-ger, sing to- geth- er, Je- sus Christ is liv- ing bread.



Come from wil-der-ness and wan-d'ring. Here in truth we will be fed.  
 Come from rest-less-ness and roam-ing. Here in joy we keep the feast.  
 Come from lone-li-ness and long-ing. Here in peace we have been fed.



You that yearn for days of full-ness, all a-round us is our food.  
 We that once were lost and scat-tered in com-mu-nion's love have stood.  
 Blest are those who from this ta-ble live their days in grat-i-tude.



Taste and see the grace e-ter-nal. Taste and see that God is good.  
 Taste and see the grace e-ter-nal. Taste and see that God is good.  
 Taste and see the grace e-ter-nal. Taste and see that God is good.

**GREETING**

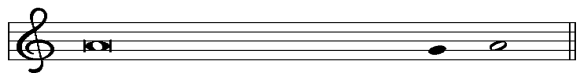
Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!**

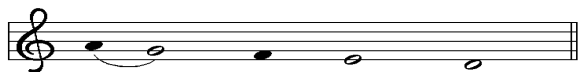
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you always.

**And also with you.**

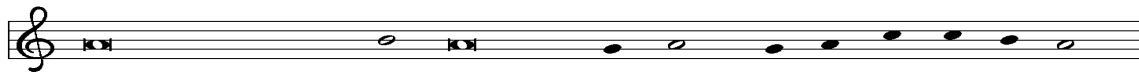
**KYRIE**



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



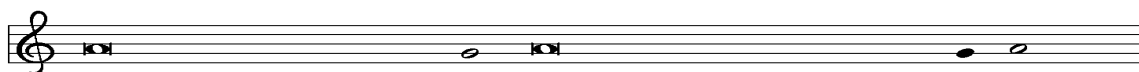
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



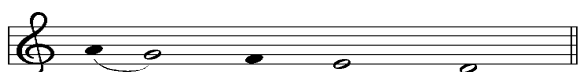
Lord, have mer - cy.



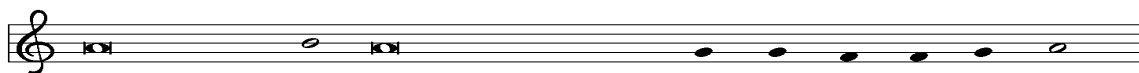
For the peace of the whole world, for the well - being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

## CANTICLE OF PRAISE

*Refrain*

Assisting minister



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

All



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and

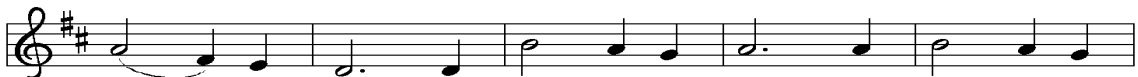


strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.

*Refrain*



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



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless-ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



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

*Final refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be - gun his reign. 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

Acts 1:6-14

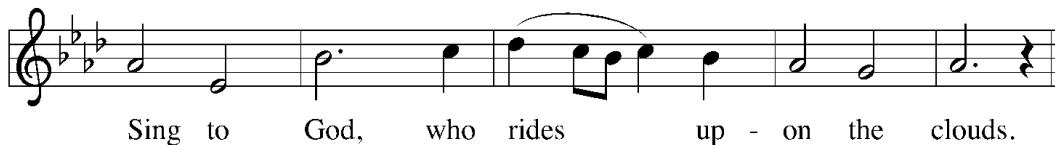
<sup>6</sup>When [the apostles] had come together, they asked [Jesus], "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" <sup>7</sup>He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup>But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." <sup>9</sup>When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. <sup>10</sup>While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. <sup>11</sup>They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven." <sup>12</sup>Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. <sup>13</sup>When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. <sup>14</sup>All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

## PSALMODY

Psalms 68:1-10, 32-35



<sup>1</sup>Let God arise, and let God's ene- | mies be scattered;  
let those who | hate God flee.

<sup>2</sup>**As smoke is driven away, so you should drive | them away;**  
**as the wax melts before the fire, so let the wicked perish at the pres- | ence of God.**

<sup>3</sup>But let the righteous be glad and rejoice | before God;  
let them also be mer- | ry and joyful.

<sup>4</sup>**Sing to God, sing praises to God's name; exalt the one who | rides the clouds;**  
**I AM is that name, rejoice | before God! R**

<sup>5</sup>In your holy habita- | tion, O God,  
you are a father to orphans, defend- | er of widows;

<sup>6</sup>**you give the solitary a home and bring forth prisoners | into freedom;**  
**but the rebels shall live in | desert places.**

<sup>7</sup>O God, when you went forth be- | fore your people,  
 when you marched | through the wilderness,  
<sup>8</sup>**the earth quaked, and the skies poured down rain, at the presence of God, the | God of Sinai,**  
**at the presence of God, the | God of Israel.**  
<sup>9</sup>You sent a bountiful | rain, O God;  
 you restored your inheritance | when it languished.  
<sup>10</sup>**Your people found their | home in it;**  
**in your goodness, O God, you have made provision | for the poor. R**  
<sup>32</sup>Sing to God, O kingdoms | of the earth;  
 sing praises | to the Lord.  
<sup>33</sup>**You ride in the heavens, O God, in the | ancient heavens;**  
**you send forth your voice, your | mighty voice.**  
<sup>34</sup>Ascribe pow- | er to God,  
 whose majesty is over Israel; whose strength is | in the skies.  
<sup>35</sup>**How wonderful you are in your holy places, O | God of Israel,**  
**giving strength and power to your people! | Blessed be God! R**

**SECOND READING**

1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11

<sup>12</sup>Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. <sup>13</sup>But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. <sup>14</sup>If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.  
<sup>5:6</sup>Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. <sup>7</sup>Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. <sup>8</sup>Discipline yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. <sup>9</sup>Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. <sup>10</sup>And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. <sup>11</sup>To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

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

(We Stand)

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

**THE HOLY GOSPEL**

John 17:1-11

The holy gospel according to St. John, the 17th chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>After Jesus had spoken these words [to his disciples], he looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, <sup>2</sup>since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. <sup>3</sup>And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. <sup>4</sup>I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. <sup>5</sup>So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed. <sup>6</sup>"I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. <sup>7</sup>Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; <sup>8</sup>for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. <sup>9</sup>I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. <sup>10</sup>All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. <sup>11</sup>And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one."

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

*"In Christ Called to Baptize"*

ELW 575



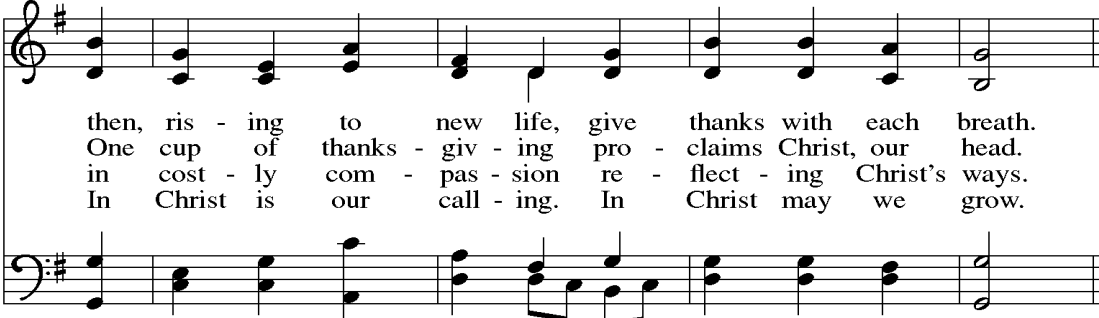
1 In Christ called to bap - tize, we wit - ness to grace  
 2 In Christ called to ban - quet, one ta - ble we share,  
 3 In Christ called to wit - ness, by grace we will preach  
 4 U - nite us, a - noint us, O Spir - it of love,



and gath - er a peo - ple from each land and race.  
 a ha - ven of wel - come, a cir - cle of care.  
 the life - giv - ing gos - pel; God's love we will teach.  
 for you are with - in us, a - round us, a - bove.



In deep, flow - ing wa - ters, we share in Christ's death,  
 Al - though we are man - y, we share in one bread.  
 By grace may our liv - ing give proof to our praise  
 E - quip us for ser - vice with gifts you be - stow.



then, ris - ing to new life, give thanks with each breath.  
 One cup of thanks - giv - ing pro - claims Christ, our head.  
 in cost - ly com - pas - sion re - flect - ing Christ's ways.  
 In Christ is our call - ing. In Christ may we grow.

**(11:00) THE NICENE CREED**

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. 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

*“Brethren, We Have Met to Worship”*  
Variation 1 and 2

Raymond H. Haan

(We Stand)

OFFERTORY

ELW 184

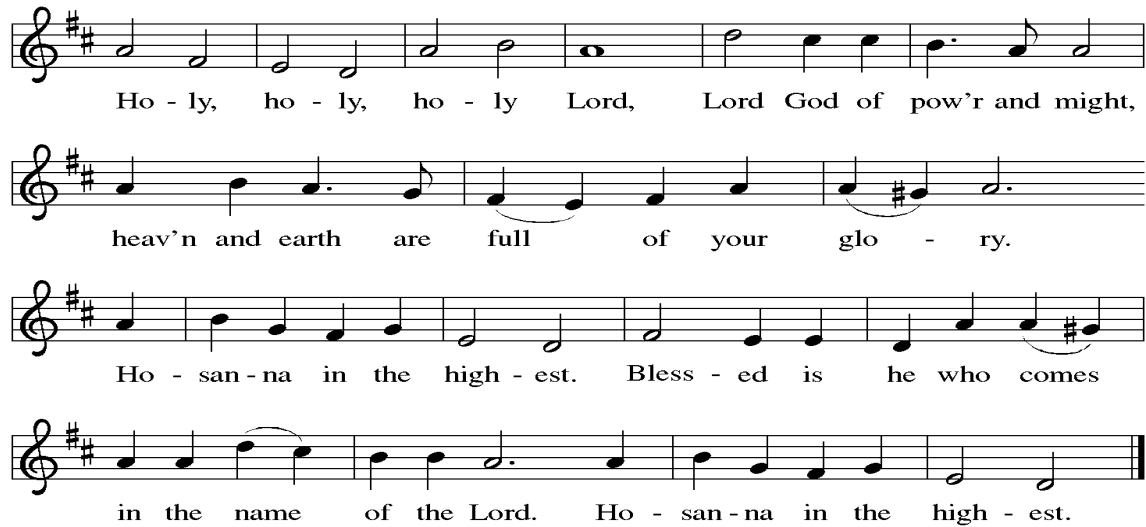
Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of  
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that  
we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of  
all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble  
with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

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, Lord God of pow'r and might,  
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
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)



SENDING HYMN

"Thine the Amen"

ELW 826



1 Thine the a - men thine the praise al - le - lu - ias an - gels raise  
 2 Thine the life e - ter - nal - ly thine the prom - ise let there be  
 3 Thine the tru - ly thine the yes thine the ta - ble we the guest  
 4 Thine the king - dom thine the prize thine the won - der full sur - prise  
 5 Thine the glo - ry in the night no more dy - ing on - ly light



thine the ev - er - last - ing head thine the break - ing of the bread  
 thine the vi - sion thine the tree all the earth on bend - ed knee  
 thine the mer - cy all from thee thine the glo - ry yet to be  
 thine the ban - quet then the praise then the jus - tice of thy ways  
 thine the riv - er thine the tree then the Lamb e - ter - nal - ly



thine the glo - ry thine the sto - ry thine the har - vest then the cup  
 gone the nail - ing gone the rail - ing gone the plead - ing gone the cry  
 then the ring - ing and the sing - ing then the end of all the war  
 thine the glo - ry thine the sto - ry then the wel - come to the least  
 then the ho - ly ho - ly ho - ly cel - e - bra - tion ju - bi - lee



thine the vine - yard then the cup is lift - ed up lift - ed up.  
 gone the sigh - ing gone the dy - ing what was loss lift - ed high.  
 thine the liv - ing thine the lov - ing ev - er - more ev - er - more.  
 then the won - der all in - creas - ing at thy feast at thy feast.  
 thine the splen - dor thine the bright - ness on - ly thee on - ly thee.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace to share the good news that Christ is Risen!  
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

"Fugue in C Major a 3"

George F. Handel

## **Sunday, May 17, 2026**

### **7th Sunday of Easter**

#### **Overhearing Jesus**

At the ascension we, like the disciples in today's reading in Acts, are left looking at the sky. But in the High Priestly Prayer (John 17), Jesus brings us back to earth. In the prayer he speaks not only from the perspective of the risen and ascended one, but as the Word of God, now made flesh. The prayer anticipates the accomplishments of this Word, which does not return empty (Isa. 55:11), namely in the fulfillment of the "hour" of Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection. It is as if Jesus has already ascended "to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God" (John 20:17), and has returned to tell us something vital.

As we overhear Jesus, we learn that God's character and motive are identical to those of Jesus, who has now, fully and completely, "made God's name known." We no longer have to speculate about the nature of God. God's purposes and love are made known in Jesus. But we also learn about ourselves. Jesus' prayer frequently mentions the "world"—the world at once hostile to God and God's anointed, and yet also beloved of God (John 3:16). With Jesus' commissioning today we have our work to do, to make God known in and through Christ Jesus. The Living One works through us as "words within the world," who no longer seek meaning among the dead, but are empowered to make known the vibrant, new reality of Easter.

