

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

**7th Sunday  
after Pentecost**

**July 12, 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**

*"God of the Sparrow, God of the Whale"*

Robert J. Powell

(We Stand)

### **BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, full of compassion and mercy, abounding in steadfast love.

**Amen.**

Trusting God's promise of forgiveness, let us confess our sin against God and one another.

Eternal God our creator,

**in you we live and move and have our being. Look upon us, your children, the work of your hands. Forgive us all our offenses, and cleanse us from proud thoughts and empty desires. By your grace draw us near to you, our refuge and our strength; through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Amen.**

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit given to us. In the mercy of almighty God, Christ died for us while we still were sinners; and for his sake, God + forgives you all your sins.

**Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

"God of the Fertile Fields"

ACS 1063

1 God of the fer - tile fields, sha - per of  
2 We would be stew - ards true, hold - ing in  
3 As grows the hid - den seed, to fruit that  
4 God of the coun - try - side, dear to the

earth that yields our dai - ly bread: forth from your  
trust from you all that you give; help us in  
serves our need, so your reign grows. Let all our  
Christ who died to make us one: we pledge our

boun - teous hand come gifts your love has planned,  
love to share, teach us like you to care  
toil be used, no gift of yours a - bused,  
lives a - new in faith - ful love to you.

that all in ev - 'ry land be clothed and fed.  
for peo - ple ev - 'ry - where, that all may live.  
no hum - ble task re - fused your love be - stows.  
Guide all we say and do. Your will be 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

Assisting minister

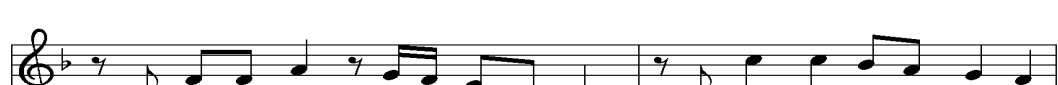


Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

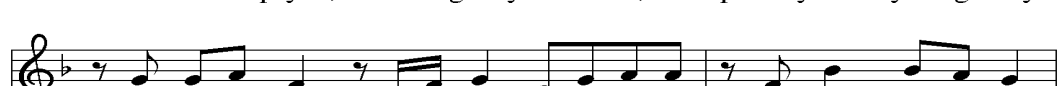
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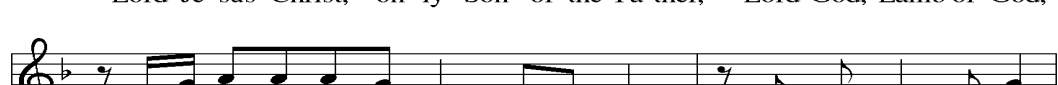
Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,



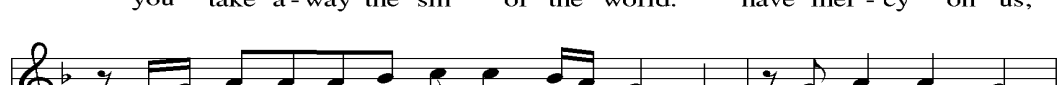
we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.




Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



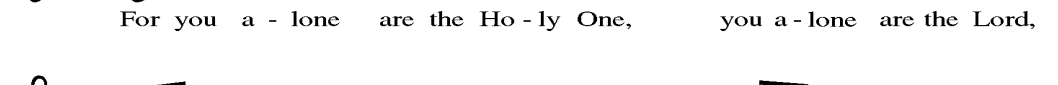
you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



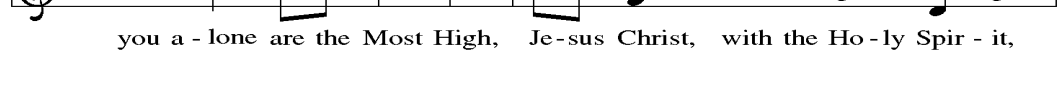
you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



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**

Isaiah 55:10-13

<sup>10</sup>For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, <sup>11</sup>so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it. <sup>12</sup>For you shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. <sup>13</sup>Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall be to the LORD for a memorial, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

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

**PSALM**

Psalm 65:[1-8] 9-11

Your paths o - ver - flow with plen - ty, O God, your  
paths o - ver - flow with plen - ty.

- [<sup>1</sup>You are to be praised, O | God, in Zion;  
to you shall vows | be fulfilled.
- <sup>2</sup>**To you, the one | who answers prayer,  
to you all | flesh shall come.**
- <sup>3</sup>Our sins are strong- | er than we are,  
but you blot out | our transgressions.
- <sup>4</sup>**Happy are they whom you choose and draw to your | courts to dwell there!  
They will be satisfied by the beauty of your house, by the holiness | of your temple. R**
- <sup>5</sup>Awesome things will you show us in your righteousness, O God of | our salvation,  
O hope of all the ends of the earth and of the oceans | far away.
- <sup>6</sup>**You make firm the mountains | by your power;  
you are girded a- | bout with might.**
- <sup>7</sup>You still the roaring | of the seas,  
the roaring of their waves, and the clamor | of the peoples.
- <sup>8</sup>**Those who dwell at the ends of the earth will tremble at your | marvelous signs;  
you make the dawn and the dusk to | sing for joy.] R**
- <sup>9</sup>You visit the earth and water it abundantly; you make it very plenteous; the river of God is | full  
of water.  
You prepare the grain, for so you provide | for the earth.
- <sup>10</sup>**You drench the furrows and smooth | out the ridges;  
with heavy rain you soften the ground and | bless its increase.**
- <sup>11</sup>You crown the year | with your goodness,  
and your paths over- | flow with plenty. **R**



<sup>18</sup>“Hear then the parable of the sower. <sup>19</sup>When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. <sup>20</sup>As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; <sup>21</sup>yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. <sup>22</sup>As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. <sup>23</sup>But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

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**

*“For the Fruit of All Creation”*

ELW 679



1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.  
 2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God’s will is done.  
 3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.



For these gifts to ev - ’ry na - tion, thanks be to God.  
 In the help we give our neigh - bor, God’s will is done.  
 For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.



For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,  
 In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de - spair - ing,  
 For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con - found us,



fu - ture needs in earth’s safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.  
 in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God’s will is done.  
 most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

**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

“Holy Ground”

Sarah Hart/Francesca LaRosa

Blessed are you who fear the Lord, who walk humbly in God’s ways.  
You shall be a fruitful vine and a blessing all your days.  
Blessed are you who seek the Lord, who have called upon God’s name.  
You will be a house of peace and a blessing all your days.  
  
How beautiful the love of God, you’ve come to live your life upon.  
May your refuge be his heart and your dwelling holy ground.  
Blessed are you who fear the Lord who walk humbly in God’s ways.  
Yours shall be a fruitful life and a blessing all your days.  
  
How beautiful the love of God you’ve come to live your life upon.  
May your refuge be his heart, and your dwelling holy ground.

(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.

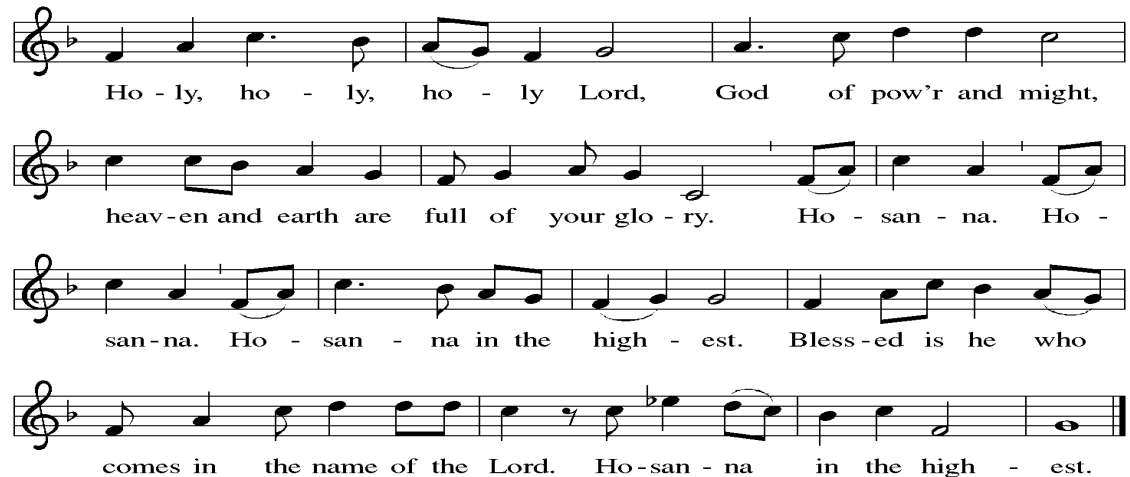
## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



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

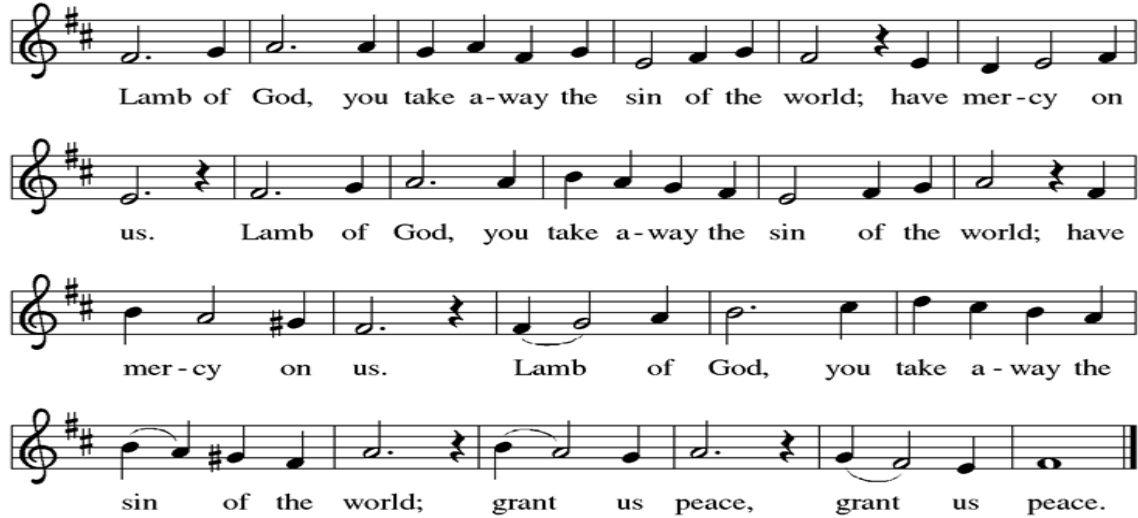
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the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



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, 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                      *Meditation on "The King of Love"*                      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 WOV (Blue) Hymnal in your pew rack.*

Communion Hymn                      "Great is Thy Faithfulness"                      WOV 771

(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

May God, whose power working in us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine, grant you the gifts of faith and hope, and almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN**

*"On What Has Now Been Sown"*

ELW 550

1 On what has now been sown your bless - ing Lord, be - stow; the  
2 To you our wants are known, from you are all our pow'rs; ac -  
3 Oh, grant that each of us, now met be - fore you here, may

pow'r is yours a - lone to make it sprout and grow. O Lord, in  
cept what is your own and par-don what is ours. Our prais - es,  
meet to - geth - er thus when you and yours ap - pear, and fol - low

grace the har - vest raise, and yours a - lone shall be the praise!  
Lord, and prayers re - ceive and to your word a bless - ing give.  
you to heav'n, our home. E'en so, A - men! Lord Je - sus, come!

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. The Spirit sends us forth to serve.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

*"Let All Things Now Living"*

Welsh Folk Tune

**ALTAR FLOWERS** are given to the glory of God and in honor of our 50th wedding anniversary by Don and Georgianna Dukes.

**SERVING TODAY:**

Ushers: (8:30) Reuben Eargle, Sandy Shealy, Jim Nantz, Daryl Hooker, and Rick Loging;  
(11:00) Otis Rawl, G Kolb, Mike Burgess, Myra Strock, Roy Windham,  
and George Mathias

Cantor: Melissa Rawl

Soloist: Katy Hooker, Audrey Lewis

Greeters: (8:30) Jennifer and Brant Taylor; (11:00) Bonnie Long

Readers: (8:30) Julie Gies; (11:00) Ray Smith

Communion Assistants: (8:30) Ann Clark; (11:00) Peggy Sherman

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

**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	

**Summer Sunday School Information:**

**Locations for Adult Classes**

<b>Agape Adult Class</b> Room #102 (Closest to Narthex)
<b>Saints &amp; Sinners with PJ and PR</b> Room #203 (Large Upstairs Room)
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.