

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

**18th Sunday
after Pentecost**

September 27, 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 by the first hall 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

"O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee"

Gordon Young

(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.

1 Christ, whose glo - ry fills the skies, Christ, the true and on - ly light,
 2 Dark and cheer-less is the morn un - ac - com - pa - nied by thee;
 3 Vis - it then this soul of mine, pierce the gloom of sin and grief;

Sun of righ-teous-ness, a - rise, tri - umph o'er the shades of night;
 joy-less is the day's re - turn, till thy mer-cy's beams I see,
 fill me, ra - dian - cy di - vine, scat - ter all my un - be - lief;

Day-spring from on high, be near; Day - star, in my heart ap - pear.
 till they in - ward light im - part, glad my eyes, and warm my heart.
 more and more thy - self dis - play, shin - ing to the per - fect day.

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

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

¹The word of the LORD came to me: ²What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, "The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge"?

³As I live, says the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die.

²⁵Yet you say, "The way of the Lord is unfair." Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? ²⁶When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die.

²⁷Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. ²⁸Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. ²⁹Yet the house of Israel says, "The way of the Lord is unfair." O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

³⁰Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. ³¹Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? ³²For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord GOD. Turn, then, and live.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 25:1-9



¹To | you, O LORD,
I lift | up my soul.

²**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be | put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph | over me.**

³Let none who look to you be | put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame | who are treacherous.

⁴**Show me your | ways, O LORD,
and teach | me your paths. R**

⁵Lead me in your | truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all | the day long.

⁶**Remember, O LORD, your compas- | sion and love,
for they are from | everlasting.**

⁷Remember not the sins of my youth and | my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your good- | ness, O LORD.

⁸**You are gracious and up- | right, O LORD;
therefore you teach sinners | in your way.**

⁹You lead the low- | ly in justice
and teach the low- | ly your way. **R**

SECOND READING

Philippians 2:1-13

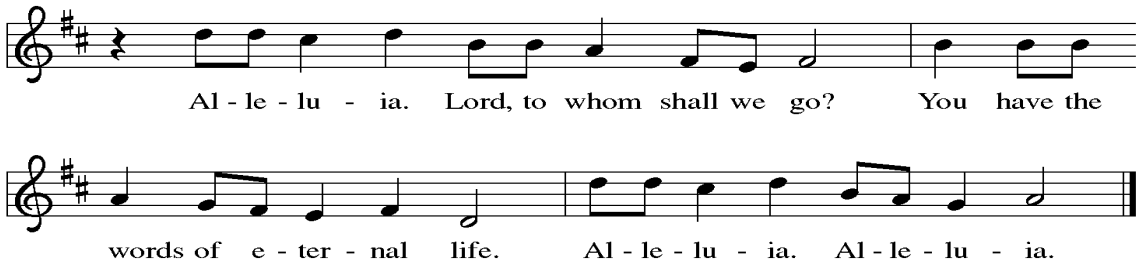
¹If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, ²make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. ⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, ⁷but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, ⁸he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. ¹²Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

(We Stand)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 21:23-32

The holy gospel according to St. Matthew, the 21st chapter.

Glorify to you, O Lord.

²³When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” ²⁴Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ ²⁶But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.” ²⁷So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things. ²⁸“What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ ²⁹He answered, ‘I will not’; but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, ‘I go, sir’; but he did not go. ³¹Which of the two

did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³²For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him."

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

"O Master, Let Me Walk with You"

ELW 818

1 O Mas - ter, let me of walk with you in low - ly;
2 Help me the slow of heart to move by some clear,
3 Teach me your pa - tience; share with me a clos - er,
4 In hope that sends a shin - ing ray far down the

paths of ser - vice true; tell me your se - cret;
win - ning word of love; teach me the way - ward
dear - er com - pa - ny; in work that keeps faith
fu - ture's broad - 'ning way, in peace that on - ly

help me bear the strain of toil, the fret of care.
sweet to stay, and in guide them in the the home - ward way.
you can strong, with you, O that O Mas - ter, let me 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.



(8:30) Voluntary

"Air from Suite No. 3"

Johann S. Bach

(11:00) Anthem

"Take Up Your Cross"

Hal H. Hopson

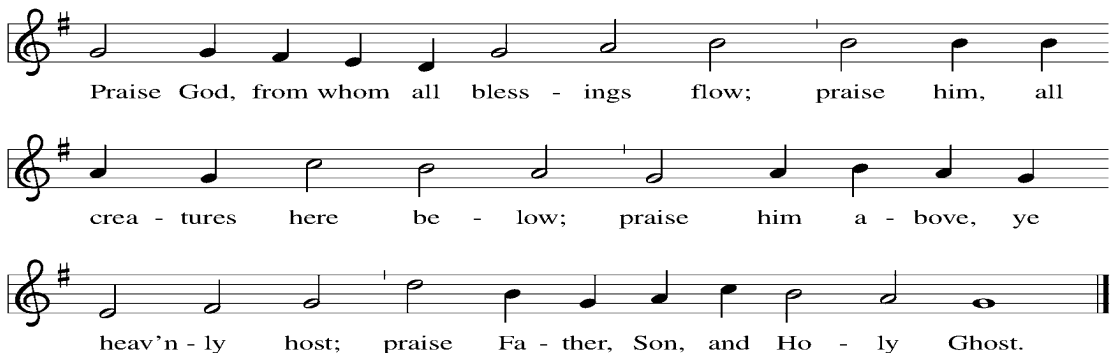
"Take up your cross," the Savior said, "If you would my disciple be; deny yourself, the world forsake, and humbly follow after me." Take up your cross, let not its weight fill your weak spirit with alarm; God's strength will bear your spirit up, and brace your heart and gird your arm.

Take up your cross, nor heed the shame, nor let your foolish pride rebel; the Lord for you the cross endured, to save your soul from death and hell. Take up your cross and follow Christ, nor think till death to lay it down; for only those who bear the cross may hope to wear the glorious crown.

(We Stand)

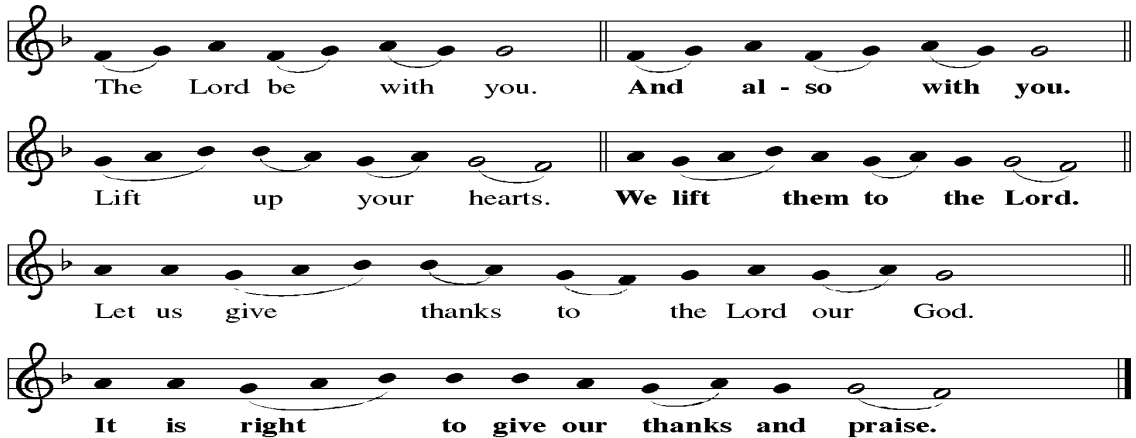
OFFERTORY

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.

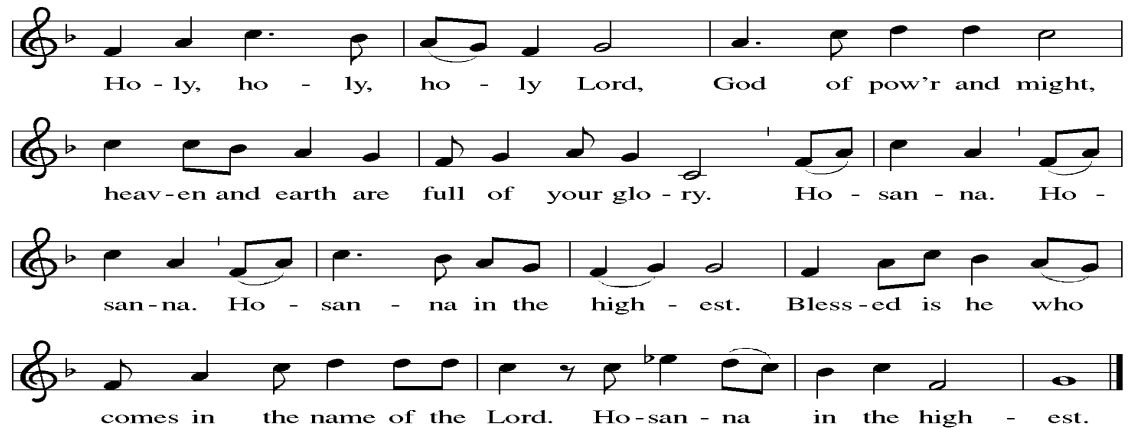
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

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

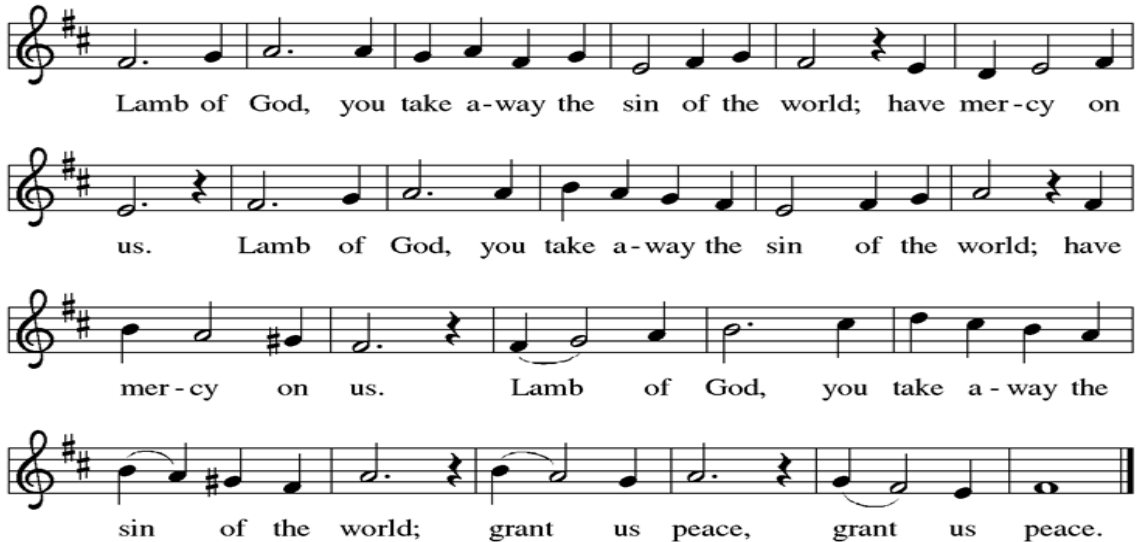
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the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

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

"Minuet from Berenice"

George F. Handel

*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

"Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word"

LBW 230

(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

"Come to Me, All Pilgrims Thirsty"

ELW 777



- 1 "Come to me, all pil-grims thirst - y; drink the wa - ter I will give.
- 2 "Come to me, all trav-lers wea - ry; come that I may give you rest.
- 3 "Come to me, be - liev-ers bur-dened; find re - fresh-ment in this place.
- 4 "Come to me, re - pen-tant sin - ners; leave be - hind your guilt and shame.



If you knew what gift I of - fer, you would come to me and live."
 Drink the cup of life I of - fer; at this ta - ble be my guest."
 Come, re - ceive the gift I of - fer, turn to me and seek my face."
 Come and know di - vine com - pas - sion, turn to me, I call your name."

Refrain



Je - sus, ev - er - flow-ing foun - tain, give us wa - ter from your well.



In the gra - cious gift you of - fer there is joy no tongue can tell.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>5 "Come to me, distressed and needy;
 I would be your trusted friend.
 Come and seek the gift I offer,
 come, your open hands extend." <i>Refrain</i></p> | <p>6 "Come to me, abandoned, orphaned;
 lonely ways no longer roam.
 Come and take the gift I offer,
 let me make in you my home." <i>Refrain</i></p> |
|--|---|

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

"Voluntary"

John Stanley

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the glory of God and in memory of my daughter, Katie Eargle, by Reuben Eargle.

SERVING TODAY:

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

Cantor: Melissa Rawl

Greeters: (8:30) Julie and Adam Tworzyanski; (11:00) Sarah Kolb

Readers: (8:30) Lucy Austin; (11:00) Don Chappell

Communion Assistants: (8:30) Niane Szalwinski; (11:00) Bill Cegelis

Order of St. Stephen's: (8:30) [A] Collins Crawford [C] Luke Wenzel;
(11:00) [A] Stone Lewis [C] Audrey Lewis

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:

<u>Locations for Children's Classes</u>	<u>Locations for Adult Classes</u>
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)
1 st —5 th Grade – Room # 216	
6 th —8 th 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!
9 th —12 th 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.