"People of Christ Making a Difference"

19th Sunday after Pentecost

October 4, 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 *"What is This Place"* Anne Krentz Organ

(We Stand)

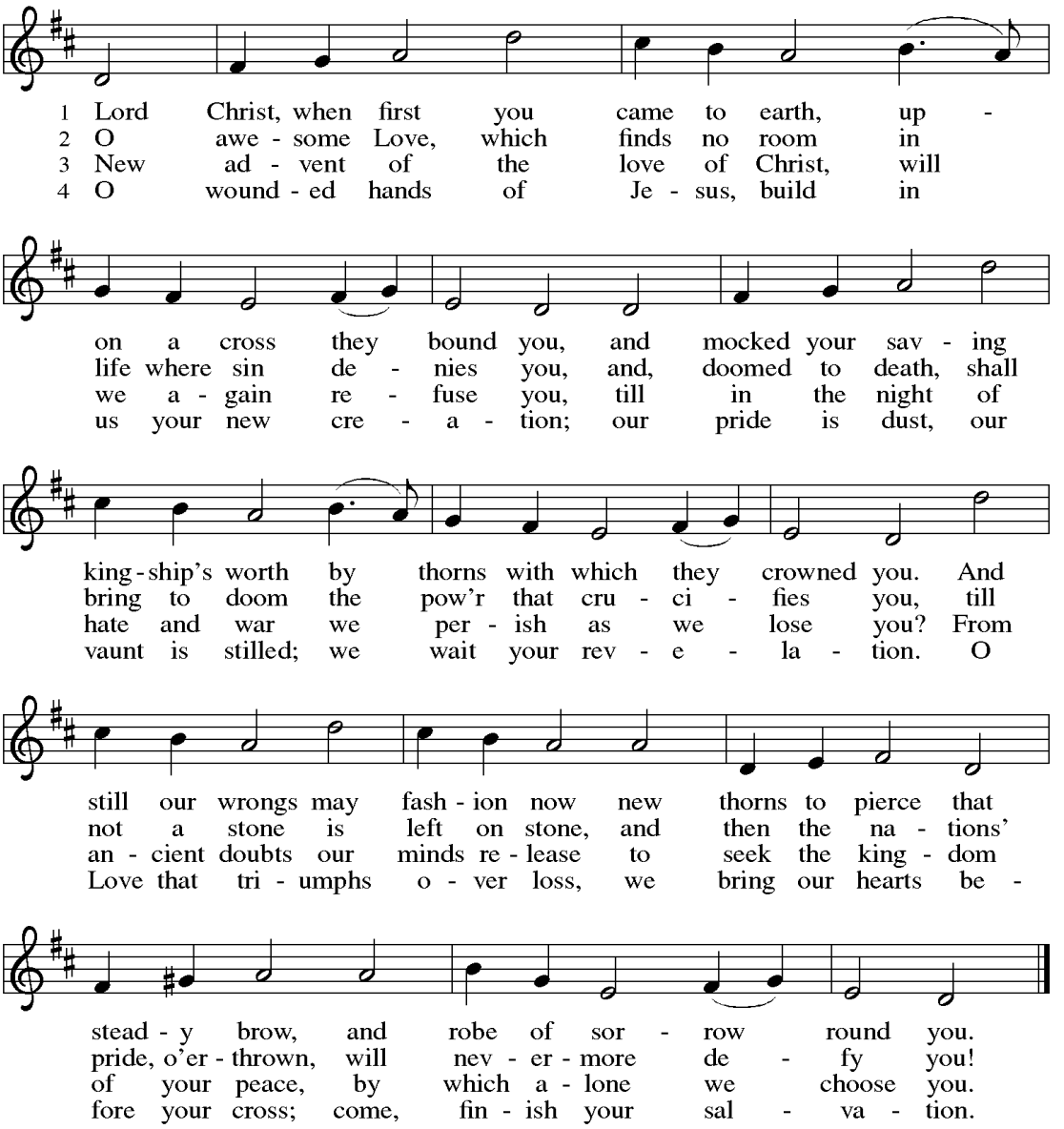
BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS
In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

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.

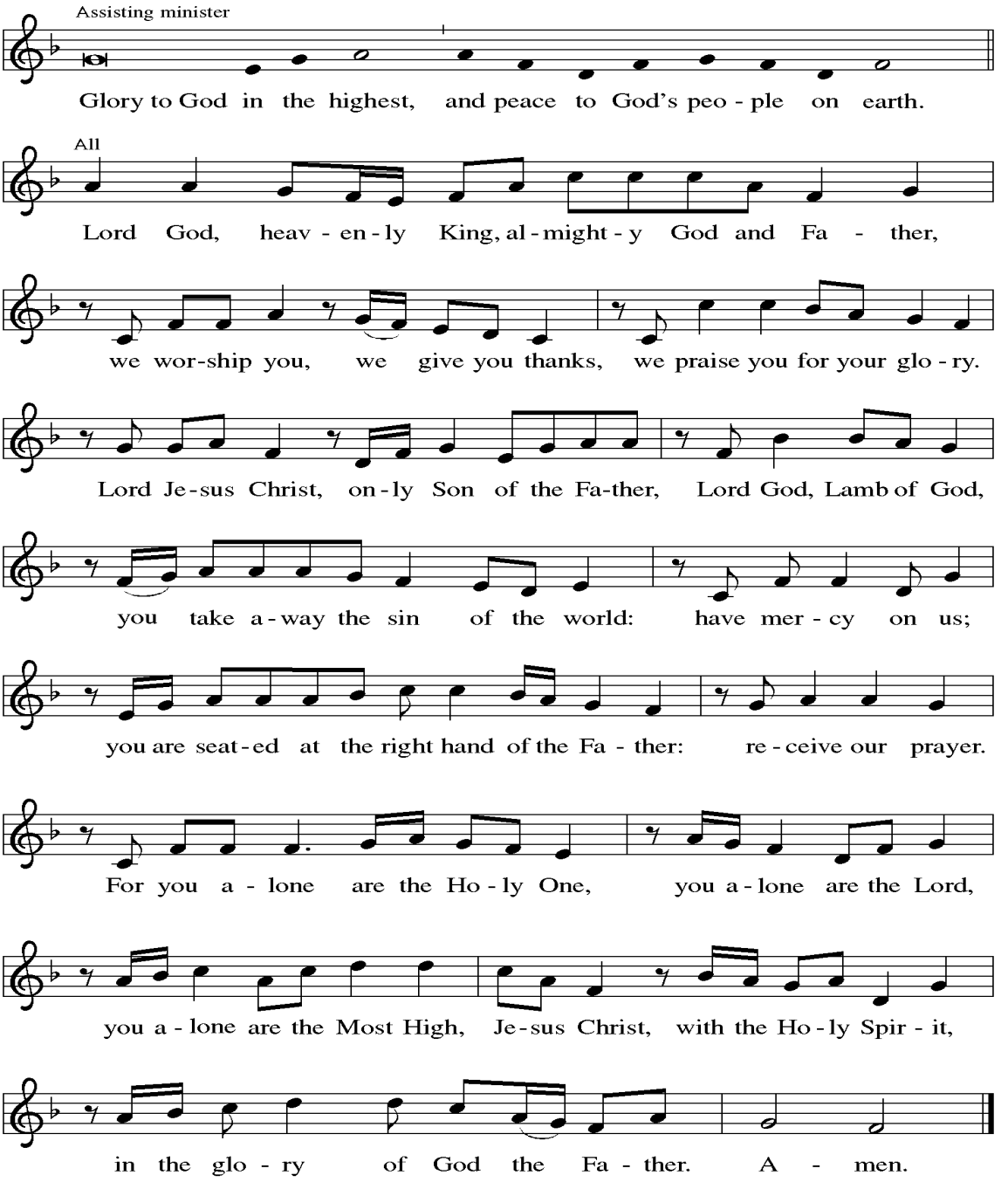
Most merciful God,
we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of 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 *"Lord Christ, When First You Came to Earth"* ELW 727

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

THE SALUTATION
The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

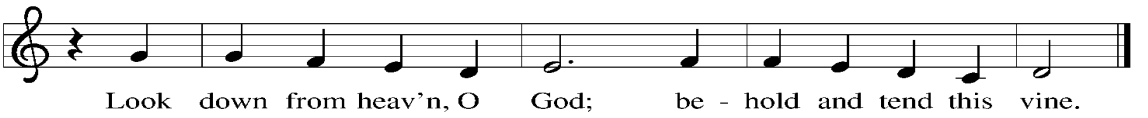
PRAYER OF THE DAY

(We Sit)

FIRST READING Isaiah 5:1-7

[1]Let me sing for my beloved my love-song concerning his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard
on a very fertile hill. [2]He dug it and cleared it of stones, and planted it with choice vines; he built a
watchtower in the midst of it, and hewed out a wine vat in it; he expected it to yield grapes, but it
yielded wild grapes. [3]And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of Judah, judge between me
and my vineyard. [4]What more was there to do for my vineyard that I have not done in it? When I
expected it to yield grapes, why did it yield wild grapes? [5]And now I will tell you what I will do to
my vineyard. I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured; I will break down its wall, and it
shall be trampled down. [6]I will make it a waste; it shall not be pruned or hoed, and it shall be
overgrown with briers and thorns; I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it.
[7]For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel, and the people of Judah are his
pleasant planting; he expected justice, but saw bloodshed; righteousness, but heard a cry!

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

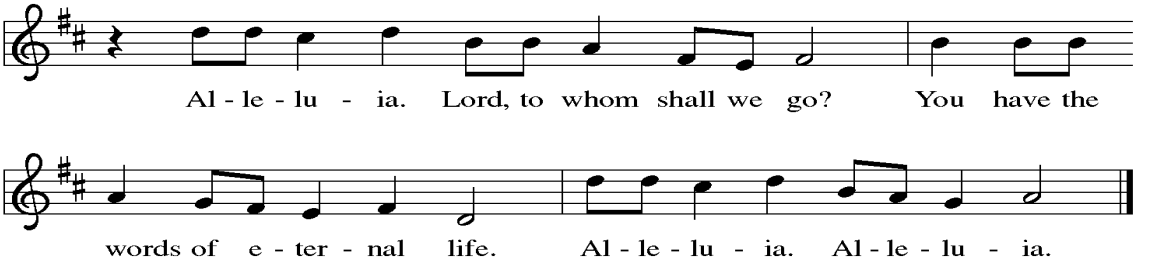
PSALM Psalm 80:7-15

[7]Restore us, O | God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.
[8]**You have brought a vine | out of Egypt;**
you cast out the nations and | planted it.
[9]You cleared the | ground for it;
it took root and | filled the land.
[10]**The mountains were covered | by its shadow**
and the towering cedar trees | by its boughs. R
[11]You stretched out its tendrils | to the sea
and its branches | to the river.
[12]**Why have you broken | down its wall,**
so that all who pass by pluck | off its grapes?
[13]The wild boar of the forest has | ravaged it,
and the beasts of the field have | grazed upon it.
[14]**Turn now, O | God of hosts,**
look | down from heaven;
[15]behold and | tend this vine;
preserve what your right | hand has planted. **R**

SECOND READING Philippians 3:4b-14

[Paul writes:] [4b]If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: [5]circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; [6]as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. [7]Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. [8]More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ [9]and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. [10]I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, [11]if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead. [12]Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. [13]Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, [14]I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

(We Stand)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

THE HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 21:33-46

The holy gospel according to St. Matthew, the 21st chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the people:] [33]"Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. [34]When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. [35]But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. [36]Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. [37]Finally he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' [38]But

when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.’ [39]So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. [40]Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” [41]They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.” [42]Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the scriptures: ‘The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord’s doing, and it is amazing in our eyes’? [43]Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. [44]The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.” [45]When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. [46]They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

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 *"God the Sculptor of the Mountains”* ELW 736

Sung to the tune “Angels, From the Realms of Glory”

God the sculptor of the mountains, God the miller of the sand,
God the jeweler of the heavens, God the potter of the land:
you are womb of all creation, we are formless; shape us now.

God the nuisance to the Pharaoh, God the cleaver of the sea,
God the pillar in the darkness, God the beacon of the free:
you are fount of all deliv'rance, we are sightless; lead us now.

God the dresser of the vineyard, God the planter of the wheat,
God the reaper of the harvest, God the source of all we eat:
you are host at ev'ry table, we are hungry; feed us now.

God the unexpected infant, God the calm, determined youth,
God the table-turning prophet, God the resurrected truth:
you are present ev'ry moment, we are searching; meet us now.

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) Anthem *"All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly"* David Cherwien

All who hunger gather gladly, holy manna is our bread. Come from wilderness and wandering here, in truth, we will be fed. You that yearn for days of fullness, all around us is our food. Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.

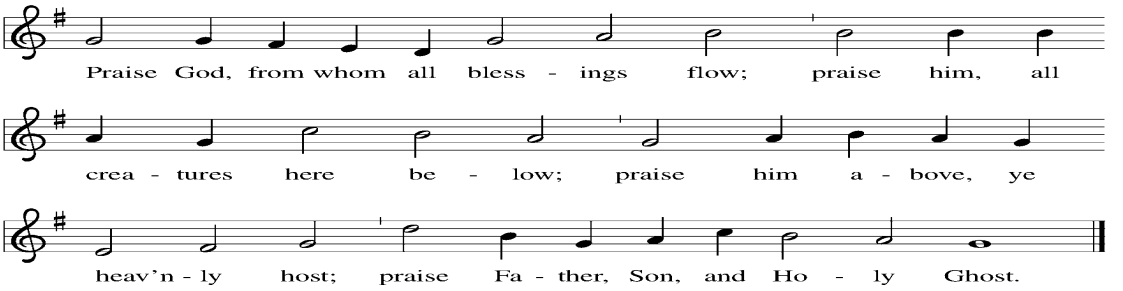
All who hunger, never strangers, seeker, be a welcome guest. Come from restlessness and roaming here, in joy, we keep the feast. We that once were lost and scattered in communion's love have stood. Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.

All who hunger, sing together, Jesus Christ is living bread. Come from loneliness and longing here in peace, we have been led. Blest are those who from this table live their days in gratitude. Taste and see the grace eternal . Taste and see that God is good.

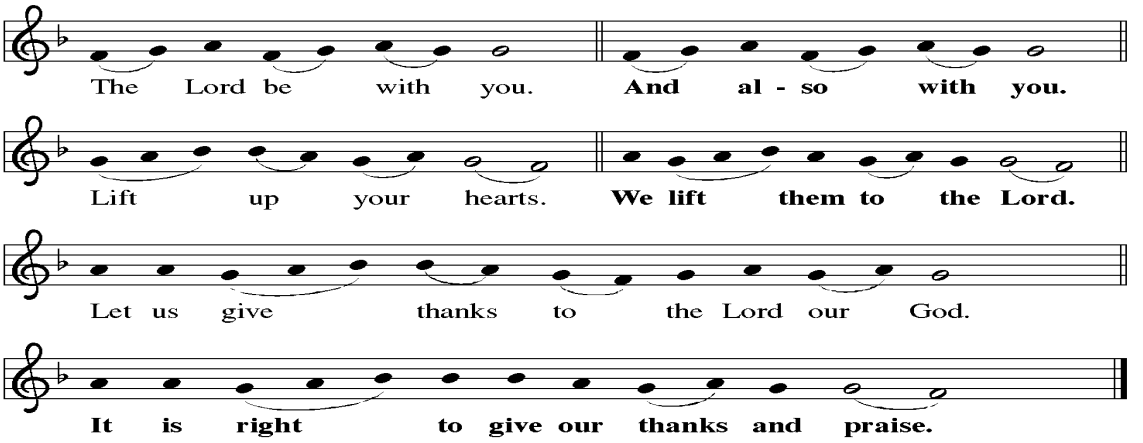
(11:00) Voluntary *"Morning Has Broken"* Don Michael Dicie

(We Stand)

OFFERTORY ELW 854

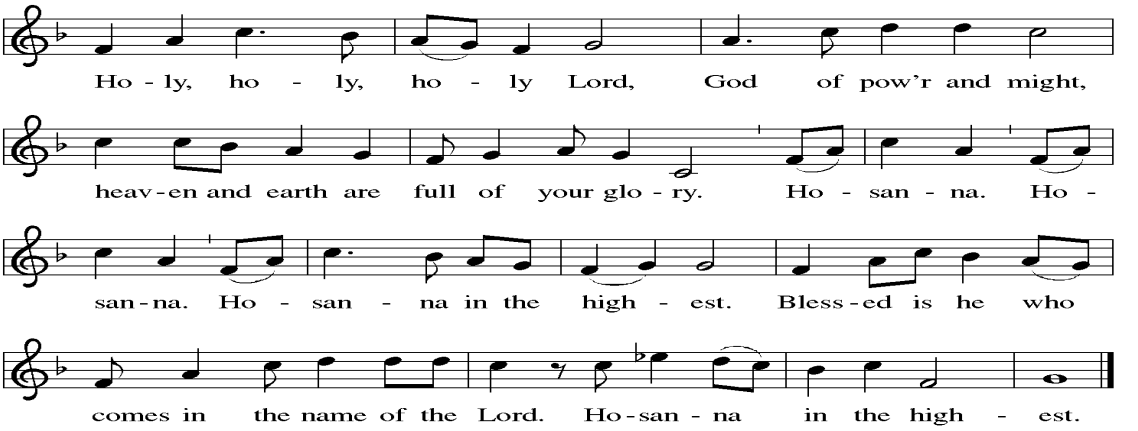


THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



THE PREFACE

THE SANCTUS



THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

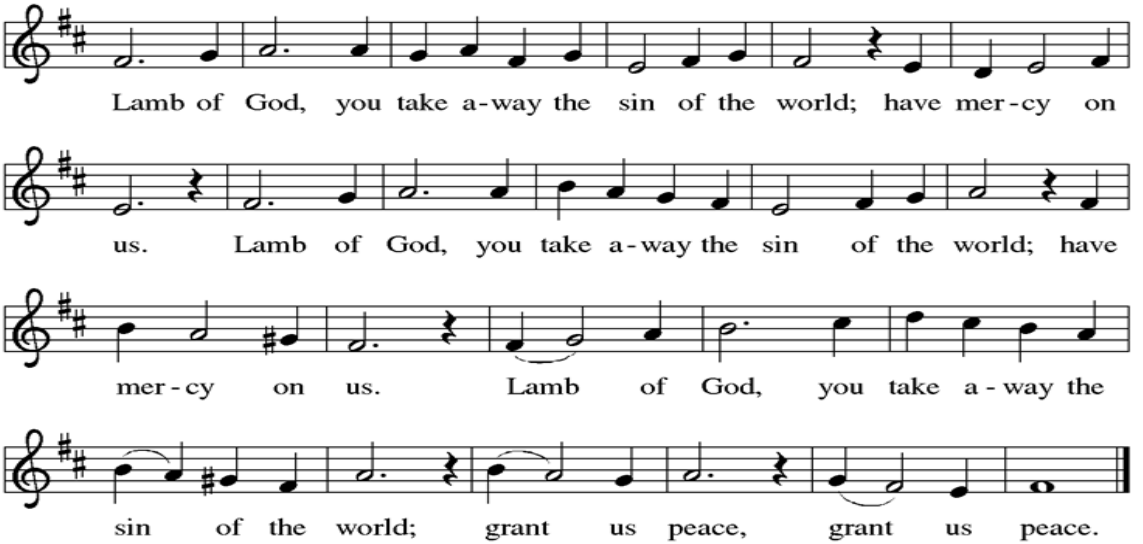
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the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

Christ welcomes you to this Holy Meal of the Baptized! We receive communion this morning at the altar rail. 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 *"The Ash Grove"* Anne Krentz Organ

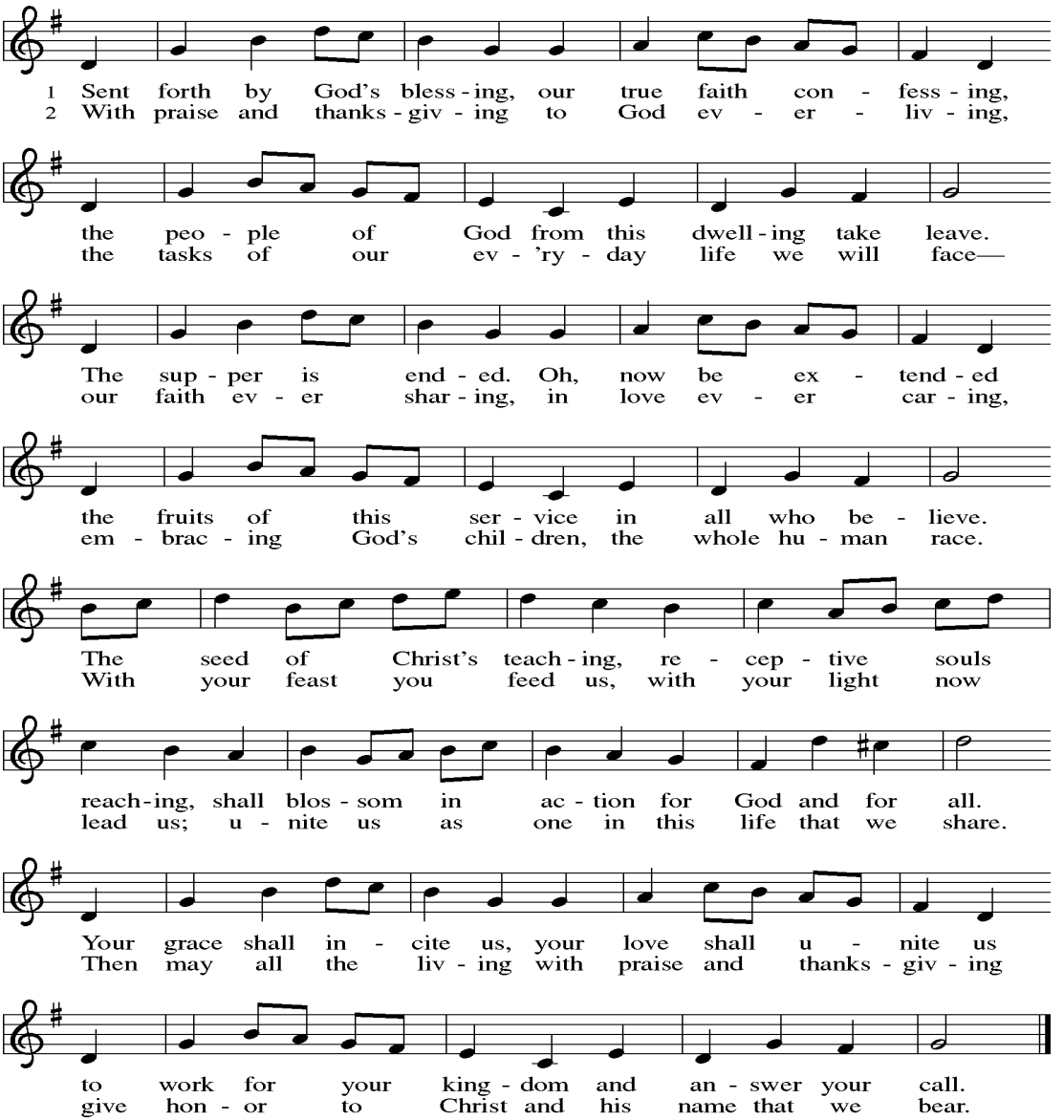
(We Stand)

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 *"Sent Forth by God's Blessing"* ELW 547

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE *"Sent Forth by God's Blessing"* Welsh Folk Tune

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the glory of God and in memory of P.H. and Grace Caughman by Pat Caughman and family.

SERVING TODAY:

Ushers: (8:30) Eric Wessinger, Ivan Black, Bill Carroll, Aaron Rawl, Vernon Hester, Deon Fink, Blaine Richardson, and Chad Geary;
(11:00) Alon Cox, Roy Welch, Brian Paeth, Doug Harper, Heyward Addy, and Matt Martin

Cantor: Shawn Lackey

Flutist: Lisa Catalanotto

Greeters: (8:30) Ginger Macaulay; (11:00) Chuck and Dawn Corley

Readers: (8:30) Lisa Catalanotto; (11:00) Gay Clark

Communion Assistants: (8:30) Marian Fowler & Marti Hartley; (11:00) Jamie Early & Ed Smith

Order of St. Stephen's: (8:30) [A] Caroline Hooker [C] Katy Hooker [BB] Jaime Wessinger;
(11:00) [A] Eli Maxheimer [C] Craig Lunsford [BB} Sophie Taylor

The Church Staff **Website: www.sslc.org**

The Rev. Jason T. Antley
Mrs. Shannon Burnett, Director of Family Life
Ms. Susan Wilson, Director of Music/Organist
The Rev. Ralph G. Hill
Mrs. Tonya Reynolds, Parish Administrator
Mrs. Julie Tworzyanski, Preschool Director
Mrs. Sylvia Looney, Organist Emeritus

Sunday School Information:

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

From sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright © 2026 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.