

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

**20th Sunday
after Pentecost**

October 11, 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

(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 Lord God, we praise you, now the night is o - ver, ac - tive and
 2 Mon - arch of all things, fit us for your man - sions; ban - ish our
 3 All - ho - ly Fa - ther, Son, and e - qual Spir - it, Trin - i - ty

watch - ful, stand - ing here be - fore you; sing - ing, we of - fer
 weak - ness, health and whole - ness send - ing; bring us to heav - en,
 bless - ed, send us your sal - va - tion; yours is the glo - ry,

prayer and med - i - ta - tion; thus we a - dore you.
 where your saints u - nit - ed joy with - out end - ing.
 gleam - ing and re - sound - ing through all cre - a - tion.

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

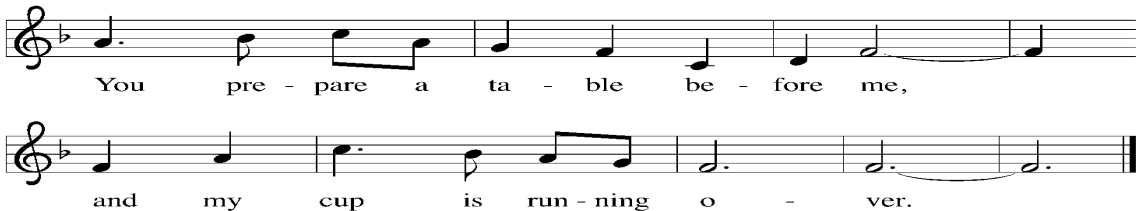
Isaiah 25:1-9

¹O Lord, you are my God; I will exalt you, I will praise your name; for you have done wonderful things, plans formed of old, faithful and sure. ²For you have made the city a heap, the fortified city a ruin; the palace of aliens is a city no more, it will never be rebuilt. ³Therefore strong peoples will glorify you; cities of ruthless nations will fear you. ⁴For you have been a refuge to the poor, a refuge to the needy in their distress, a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat. When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm, ⁵the noise of aliens like heat in a dry place, you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds; the song of the ruthless was stilled. ⁶On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear. ⁷And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; ⁸he will swallow up death forever. Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken. ⁹It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the Lord for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 23



¹The LORD | is my shepherd;
I shall not | be in want.

²**The LORD makes me lie down | in green pastures
and leads me be- | side still waters.**

³You restore my | soul, O LORD,
and guide me along right pathways | for your name's sake.

⁴**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall | fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they | comfort me. R**

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence | of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is | running over.

⁶**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days | of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the | LORD forever. R**

SECOND READING

Philippians 4:1-9

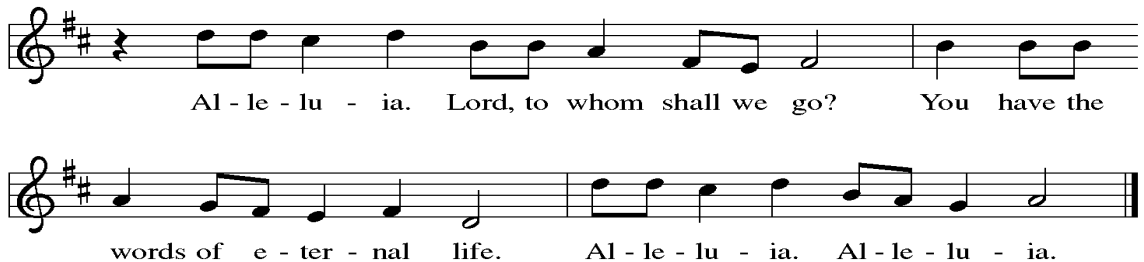
¹My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved. ²I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. ³Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life. ⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. ⁸Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

(We Stand)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 22:1-14

The holy gospel according to St. Matthew, the 22nd chapter.

Glorify to you, O Lord.

¹Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: ²“The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. ³He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. ⁴Again he sent other slaves, saying, ‘Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.’ ⁵But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, ⁶while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. ⁷The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. ⁸Then he said to his slaves, ‘The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. ⁹Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.’ ¹⁰Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests. ¹¹“But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, ¹²and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?’ And he was speechless.

¹³Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' ¹⁴For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

"Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us"

ELW 789



1 Sav-ior like a shep-herd lead us; much we need your ten - der care.
 2 We are yours; in love be - friend us, be the guard-ian of our way;
 3 You have prom-ised to re - ceive us, poor and sin - ful though we be;
 4 Ear - ly let us seek your fa - vor, ear - ly let us do your will;



In your pleas-ant pas-tures feed us, for our use your fold pre-pare.
 keep your flock, from sin de - fend us, seek us when we go a - stray.
 you have mer - cy to re - lieve us, grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free.
 bless - ed Lord and on - ly Sav - ior, with your love our spir - its fill.



Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have bought us; we are yours.
 Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je - sus, hear us chil - dren when we pray.
 Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to you.
 Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have loved us, love us still.



Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have bought us; we are yours.
 Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je - sus, hear us chil - dren when we pray.
 Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to you.
 Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have loved us, love us still.

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

"My Shepherd"

Page/Shafferman

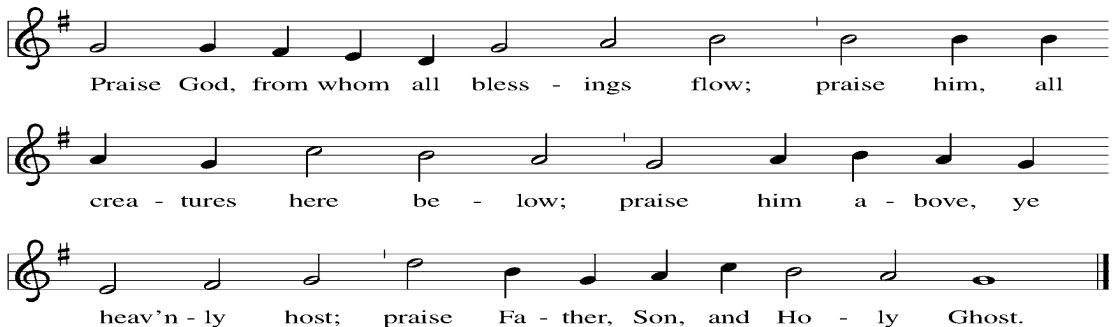
My shepherd will supply my need; Jehovah is his name.
In pastures fresh he makes me feed, beside the living stream.
He brings my wandering spirit back, when I forsake his ways;
And leads me, for his mercy's sake, in paths of truth and grace.

The King of love my shepherd is, whose goodness faileth never.
I nothing lack if I am his, and he is mine forever.
And so through all the length of days, thy goodness faileth never;
Good shepherd, may I sing thy praise within thy house forever.

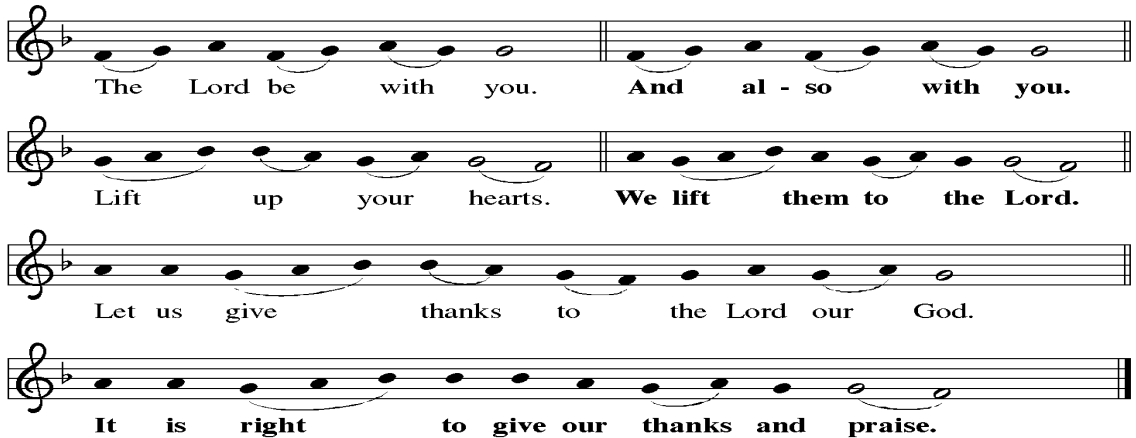
(We Stand)

OFFERTORY

ELW 854



THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

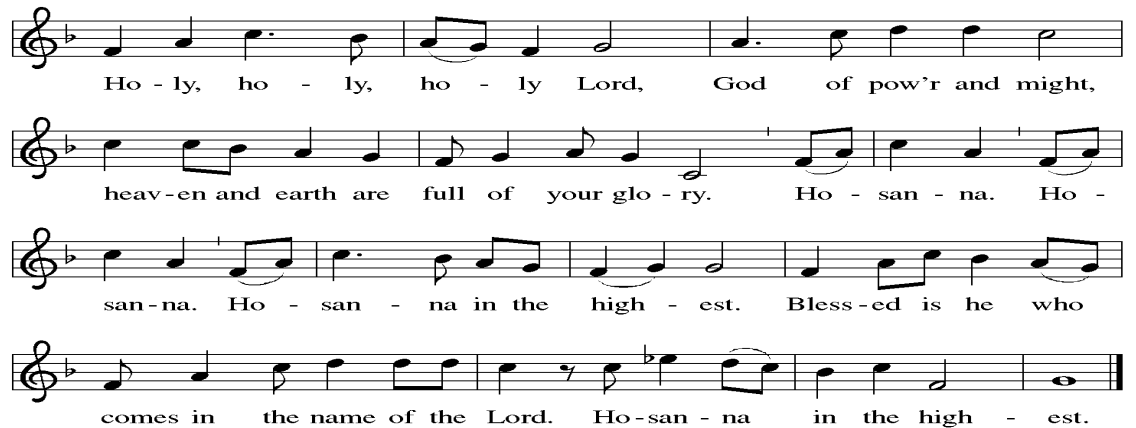
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

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

*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

"Now We Join in Celebration"

LBW 203

(We Stand)

BLESSING OF THE COMMUNICANTS

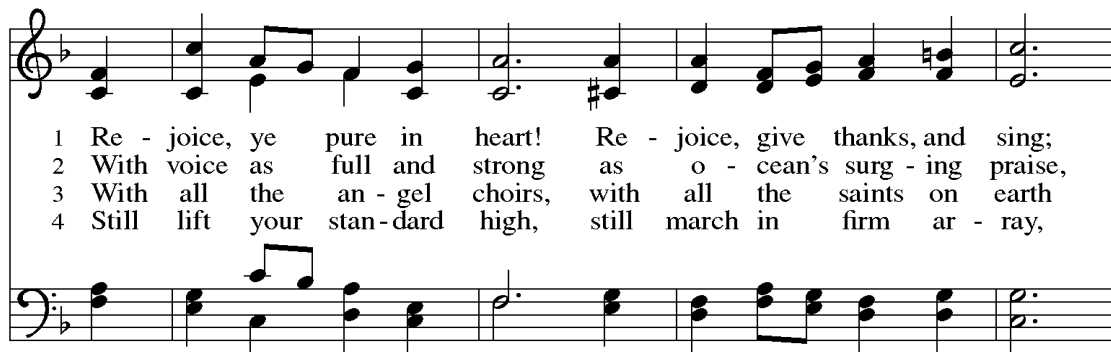
The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

BENEDICTION

Almighty and merciful God, Father, ✙ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless, preserve, and keep you this day and forevermore.

Amen.

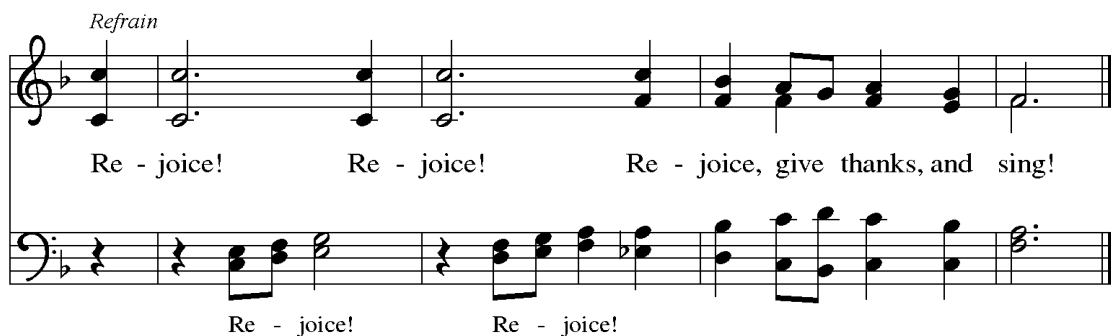


1 Re - joice, ye pure in heart! Re - joice, give thanks, and sing;
 2 With voice as full and strong as o - cean's surg - ing praise,
 3 With all the an - gel choirs, with all the saints on earth
 4 Still lift your stan - dard high, still march in firm ar - ray,



your fes - tal ban - ner wave on high, the cross of Christ your king.
 send forth the stur - dy hymns of old, the psalms of an - cient days.
 pour out the strains of joy and bliss, true rap - ture, no - blest mirth.
 as pil - grims through the dark - ness wend till dawns the gol - den day.

Refrain



Re - joice! Re - joice! Re - joice, give thanks, and sing!

Re - joice! Re - joice!

DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the glory of God and in memory of Robert Herstine by Joshua and Kate Call.

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

Director: Tom Brunson

Organist: Janet Marks

Greeters: (8:30) Bill and Jerrie Galardi; (11:00) Cathy Mathias

Readers: (8:30) Ryan Johnson; (11:00) Myra Strock

Communion Assistants: (8:30) Michael Ettlemeyer; (11:00) Cathy Mathias

Order of St. Stephen's: (8:30) [A] Ethan Kean [C] Shaun Wessinger;
(11:00) [A] Carsyn Antley [C] Aaron Head

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:

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@ssl.org) so she can add you to the distribution list.