"People of Christ Making a Difference"

St. Luke, Evangelist

October 18, 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 (8:30) "There is a Balm in Gilead" Sam Batt Owens

(11:00) "Jesus Loves Me"
"This Little Light of Mine"
"Zacchaeus Was a Wee Little Man"
(Cherub Choir)

(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 *"God, Whose Almighty Word"* ELW 673



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)

(8:30) WELCOMING OF NEW MEMBER

FIRST READING Isaiah 43:8-13

8 Bring forth the people who are blind yet have eyes, who are deaf yet have ears! 9 Let all the
nations gather together, and let the peoples assemble. Who among them declared this and
foretold to us the former things? Let them bring their witnesses to justify them, and let them hear
and say, “It is true.” 10 You are my witnesses, says the LORD, and my servant whom I have
chosen, so that you may know and believe me and understand that I am he. Before me no god
was formed, nor shall there be any after me. 11 I, I am the LORD, and besides me there is no
savior. 12 I am the one who declared and saved and proclaimed, not some strange god among
you; you are my witnesses, says the LORD, and I am God. 13 Indeed, since that day I am he; there
is no one who can deliver from my hand; I work, and who can hinder it?

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING 2 Timothy 4:5-11

[The apostle writes:] 5 As for you, be sober in everything, endure suffering, do the work of an
evangelist, carry out your ministry fully. 6 As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation,
and the time of my departure has come. 7 I have fought the good fight; I have finished the race; I
have kept the faith. 8 From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the
Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have
longed for his appearing. 9 Do your best to come to me soon, 10 for Demas, in love with this
present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica; Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus
to Dalmatia. 11 Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful to me in
ministry.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

(We Stand)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



THE HOLY GOSPEL Luke 1:1-4; 24:44-53

The holy gospel according to St. Luke, the 1st and 24th chapters.
Glory to you, O Lord.

1 Since many have undertaken to compile a narrative about the events that have been fulfilled
among us, 2 just as they were handed on to us by those who from the beginning were
eyewitnesses and servants of the word, 3 I, too, decided, as one having a grasp of everything
from the start, to write a well-ordered account for you, most excellent Theophilus, 4 so that you
may have a firm grasp of the words in which you have been instructed.

24:44 [Jesus said to the eleven and those with them,] "These are my words that I spoke to you
while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and
the psalms must be fulfilled."45 Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, 46 and he
said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third
day 47 and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations,
beginning from Jerusalem. 48 You are witnesses of these things. 49 And see, I am sending upon
you what my Father promised, so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power

from on high." [50] Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. [51] While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. [52] And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, [53] and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

(We Sit)

(11:00) Anthems *"Halle, Halle, Halle"* Michael Burkhardt
"I Can Pray" Tom Sullivan
(Carol and Treble Choirs)

I can pray, pray, pray. I can pray when the spirit says pray.
I can talk to God any time of the day when I pray, pray, pray.
I can pray in the morning and I can pray through the day.
And I can pray in the evening when the sun goes down.

I can pray when I'm happy and I can pray when I'm sad.
And I will know God still loves me even when I'm mad.
I can speak a prayer: "Praise the Lord". Sing a prayer: Alleluia!
Whisper a prayer: "Thank you, God". Even dance a prayer.

CHILDREN'S SERMON Pastor Ralph

SERMON Pastor Ralph

(We Stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY *"By All Your Saints"* ELW 421

By all your saints still striving, for all your saints at rest,
your holy name, O Jesus, forevermore be blessed!
For you arose victorious that they might wear the crown
and share the light of glory reflected from your throne.

For Luke, belov'd physician, all praise, whose gospel shows
the healer of the nations, the one who shares our woes.
Your wine and oil, O Savior, upon our spirits pour,
and with true balm of Gilead anoint us evermore.

Give praise to God Almighty, and worship God the Son,
and sing to God the Spirit, eternal Three in One,
till all the ransomed number fall down before the throne,
and honor, pow'r, and glory ascribe to God alone.

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 *"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"* Hal H. Hopson

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation. O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation. All ye who hear, now to his temple draw near. Join me in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth, shelters thee under his wings, yea, so gently sustaineth! Hast thou not seen how thy desires e'er have been granted in what he ordaineth?

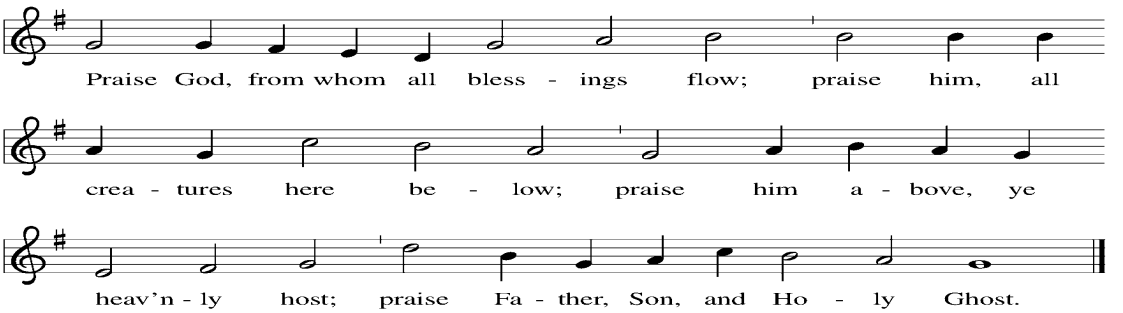
Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee. Surely his goodness and mercy here daily attend thee. Ponder anew what the Almighty can do, if with his love he befriend thee.

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him. All that hath life and breath come now with praises before him. Let the amen sound from his people again. Gladly forever adore him.

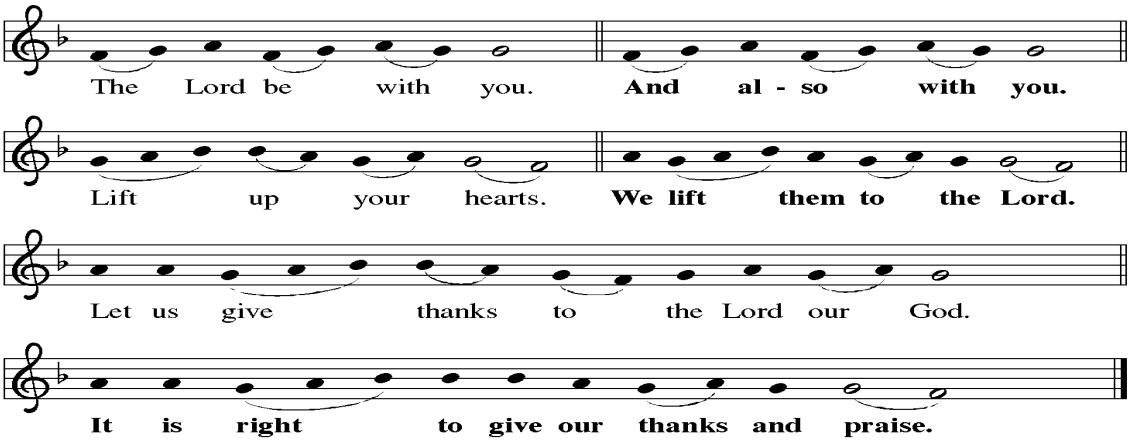
(11:00) Voluntary *"How Great Thou Art"* Swedish Melody

(We Stand)

OFFERTORY ELW 854

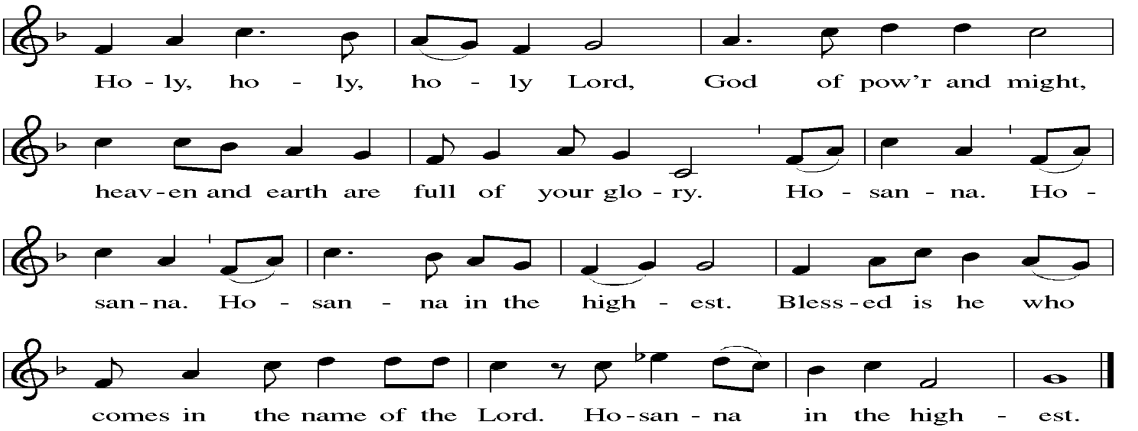


THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



THE PREFACE

THE SANCTUS



THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

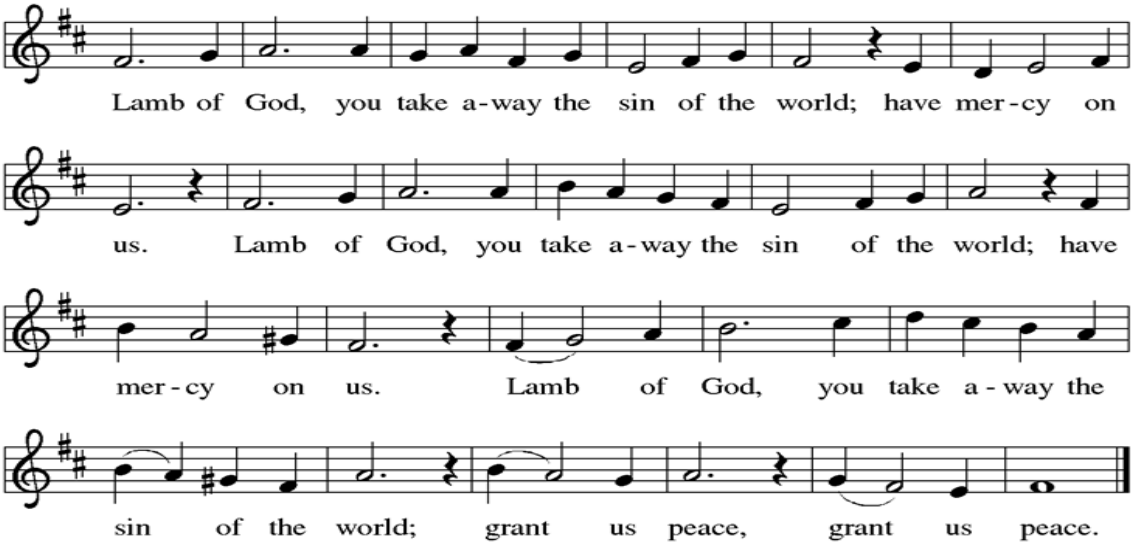
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the 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 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	(8:30)	"All You Works of the Lord"	John A. Behnke
	(11:00)	"Holy, Holy, Holy"	John B. Dykes

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 *"There is a Balm in Gilead"* WOV 737

(We Stand)

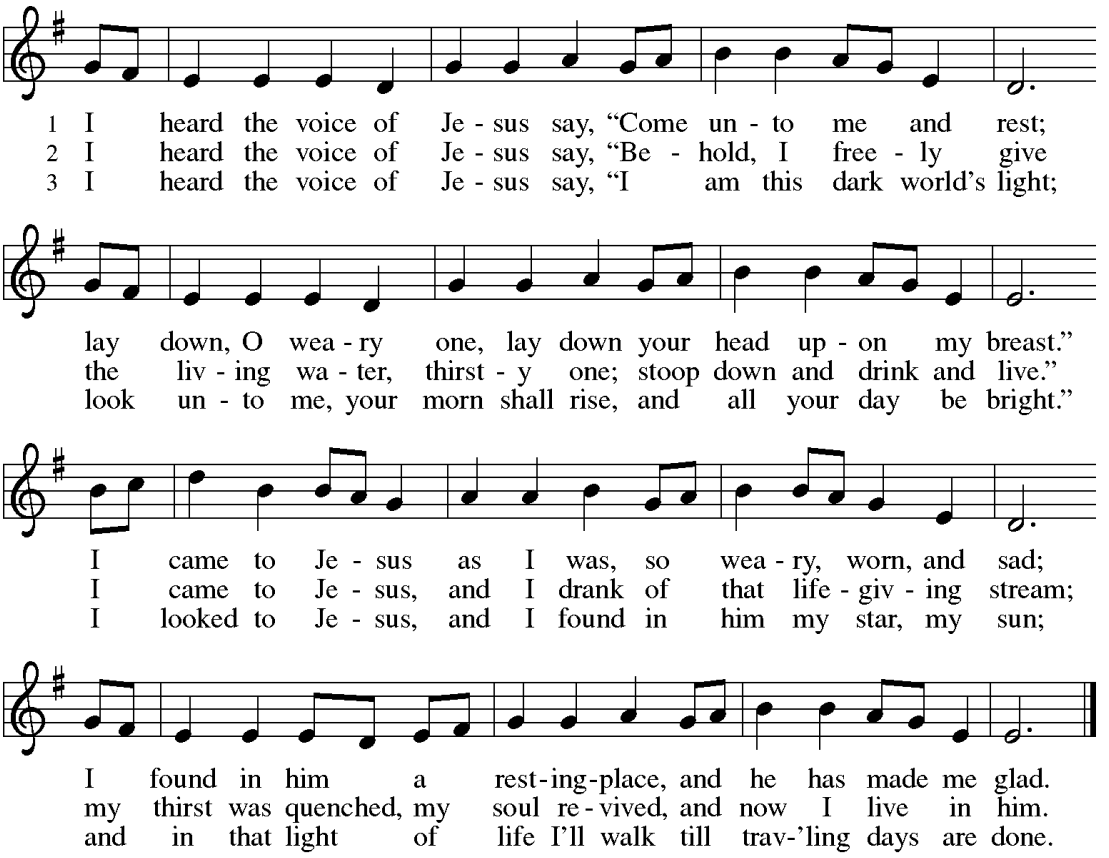
BLESSING OF THE COMMUNICANTS

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 *"I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say"* ELW 611



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

POSTLUDE *"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"* Ludwig van Beethoven

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the glory of God and in honor of our 55th wedding anniversary by Jim and Marty Nantz.

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
Handbell Ringers: Lucy Austin & Jennifer Taylor
Children's Choir Accompanist: Ann Wilson
Greeters: (8:30) Sandy Shealy; (11:00) Shannon Burnett
Readers: (8:30) Anna Yonge; (11:00) Becky Sons
Communion Assistants: (8:30) Tonya Reynolds; (11:00) Myra Strock
Order of St. Stephen's: (8:30) [A] Liam Crawford [C] Jackson Rawl;
(11:00) [A] Betsy Sadler [C] Catherine Sadler

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.

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